

How to have your cake, eat it, then throw the bill over the table

Who rattled William Hague's cage? Tired and flustered at Prime Minister's Questions yesterday, he threw his papers across the Commons Table at Tony Blair and looked ready to storm out in a fit of pique. The Tory Leader seemed off-colour. His irritation, though, was understandable. Government back-benchers have started what appeared suspiciously like an organised campaign of barracking. Worse than that Mr Blair kept asking him questions. Would the Tories spend as

much as his Government? What savings could they propose? Which of Labour's spending increases did Hague disagree with? It seemed as though Blair had taken the title "Prime Minister's Questions" too literally. Does he forget that when John Major was PM and started turning the questions on to the Opposition Leader, Blair repeatedly mocked Major for overlooking the fact that he was supposed to answer, not ask? But a short memory suits all politicians, and as he sheds

visionary language and tangles in the dirt with claim and counter-claim, this Prime Minister sounds increasingly like one of those. Yesterday he even began prefacing his answers with "I have to say..." which the Tories began to mock. What gall! "I have to say" (along with "I hear what you say" - another pospony upon which Mr Blair fell back yesterday) owes everything to the Conservative tradition in British politics. "Well, I have to say," began Hague, crossly. But he had



little to say except that (complaining both that spending ministers were not giving away much and complaining that they were profligate) Hague wished to have his cake and eat it. Blair, for his part, wished to eat his cake and have it to boast how much he was giving away; how it could be prudently afforded by a prospering nation; and how the Tories had left a heritage of economic catastrophe. Two men, then, each desirous of simultaneous possession and consumption of cake. What did that leave them to say? Easy. Each inquired furiously of the other how he could have and eat his cake. Neither answered. Both repeated the question.

Each side kept barracking when the other failed to answer. After about twenty minutes this became boring so Hague, having (he claimed) caught Blair out misrepresenting his Government's own forecasts, tossed a sheaf of Treasury figures in Blair's direction. They slid off-course, towards Gordon Brown, sitting beside him but keeping himself to himself as is his habit. Brown eyed the sheaf distastefully and, arms across his chest gripping himself, carried on hugging the only

person he really trusts. The Brown self-hug tecters between self-satisfaction and a protective, foetus-like shrinking from his immediate environment, which tends to include the Prime Minister. Sometimes the Chancellor appears to have adopted an in-flight emergency pre-crash posture. Mr Blair becomes the air hostess, grinning, handing out sweets and assuring passengers that all is well and indeed one engine may still be operational. Paddy Ashdown marked

his tenth anniversary as Liberal Democrat Leader by tentatively proposing the preposterous - that spending plans be indexed-linked - and then spluttering like a spurned lover when Blair laughed dismissively. Not a good day for Paddy Ashdown: MPs groaned at him, again. Not a good day for William Hague, who sounded unwell. Not a good day for Tony Blair, who sounded out of his depth. Not a good day for Gordon Brown though: Blair never quite sank.

Bishops vote to ban gay lobby at Lambeth

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE first signs of divisions over homosexuality that could split the Anglican Church emerged at the Lambeth Conference yesterday after conservative and evangelical bishops threw out a planned presentation by a homosexual lobby group. Sixty bishops, meeting in secret, voted to ban the lesbian and homosexual campaigners from addressing them at their meeting tomorrow. The vote was seen as the most serious setback for the campaign for homosexual marriage and ordination in the Anglican Church. The meeting was told that child molesters and people who practised bestiality should also be invited to address the conference if homosexuals were invited. Evangelical bishops insisted that, if they were to listen to practising homosexuals, they should also hear from groups who "healed" people from homosexuality and from homosexuals living a contented celibate lifestyle. The conservatives leading the rebellion included the Most Rev Maurice Sinclair, Archbishop of the Southern



The 11 women bishops of the worldwide Anglican Church at Canterbury yesterday. They are the first to attend the Lambeth Conference

Come, a bishop from Sydney and several Ugandan bishops. Although the meeting was held in secret, news of it leaked out causing anger on both sides of the debate. The issue is considered more contentious than that of women's ordination, which dominated the last Lambeth Conference ten years ago. African and Southern Hemisphere bishops are incensed that homosexuality is being debated at all at the conference. They believe that the problem of international debt is far more pressing. Evangelicals from America, Australia and England are also determined to stop what they see as a damaging slide towards liberalism in the Church in the West. The presentation was rejected by one of about 20 "sections" at the conference at Kent University, Canterbury. English members of the section, including the Bishop of Oxford, the Right Rev Richard Harries, had been expected to act as mediators between the extremes of liberalism and conservatism. But they failed to prevent the rift, which could have damaging repercussions when the issue comes before the full conference. The conference had been expected to adopt a conciliatory tone towards the issue of homosexuality. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, has endorsed a call for the conference to establish a commission to examine the issue, along similar lines to that chaired by the Archbishop of Armagh, Dr Robin Eames which paved the way

for women priests. But that could be in jeopardy, such is the strength of opposition among evangelicals and traditionalists. The controversy came as ten English bishops, not including Dr Carey, left the conference to attend the House of Lords debate on lowering the age of homosexual consent. The 45-minute presentation was to have been made by 20 members of Changing Atti-

tude, a group founded in 1996 and headed by an openly homosexual Anglican clergyman, the Rev Colin Coward, formerly a priest in "Wandsworth, South London". The lobby group's aims include creating a group of "openly lesbian and gay Church of England members" and forming diocesan networks for homosexuals. After their presentation, the ordained and lay lesbians and

homosexuals from within the Church of England would have answered questions from the delegates. Mr Coward said: "We knew there would be strongly divergent views but no one expected them to rent themselves apart so suddenly, right at the beginning of the conference." The conference organisers are now expected to invite Changing Attitude to hold their presentation in "free

time", when all the 750 delegates can choose whether to attend. The presentation to the section was organised by the Right Rev Duncan Buchanan, Bishop of Johannesburg, who is chairing the section on human sexuality. The 20 sections are meeting this week and next behind closed doors. Their resolutions will be debated in plenary sessions in the third week of the conference.

MORI poll

Continued from page 1

latest bout of "sleaze" allegations. Three out of ten people think that it is upholding higher standards in public life than the Tories did; fewer than one in ten think that standards are lower, while more than half think that things have remained about the same. This suggests that people are less shocked by "sleaze" stories than politicians and the media sometimes think. However, people have become more pessimistic about the economy. Two-fifths believe that the general economic condition of the country will get worse over the next 12 months, while only a fifth think it will improve, so that the MORI economic optimism index stands at minus 21 points, compared with minus 19 last month - the worst rating since February 1995.

MORI interviewed 1,796 adults at 151 sampling points across Britain. Interviews were conducted face-to-face on July 17-21 and voting intention figures exclude those who would not vote (9 per cent), are undecided (6 per cent) or who refused to say (1 per cent).

Council housing cash may be linked to quality

By MARK HENDERSON

COUNCILS will lose their control of social housing if they do not provide high-quality homes and invest improved resources wisely, the Government said yesterday. Local authorities will have wide discretion over how nearly £4 billion of extra cash for homes announced in last week's Comprehensive Spending Review is spent, but ministers will have new powers to remove responsibility for housing from persistent poor performers. Further investment will also be conditional on council performance. A new Housing Inspectorate run by the Audit Commission will judge how well authorities meet tough efficiency targets, and failing councils will have their responsibilities transferred to more efficient neighbours or "hit squads" of experts.

In a written statement to Parliament detailing the three-year housing investment package, John Prescott, the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, said: "We will tackle vigorously those authorities which are persistently poor performers and will have the power, ultimately, to remove their responsibilities from them should they fail to improve".

Tenants will have to be fully consulted on spending plans, which must be integrated with other regeneration projects in the area. Nearly £4 billion for housing will be handed to local authorities over the next three years. There will be £3.6 billion for refurbishment and repair of the social housing stock, allowing for improvements to about 1.5 million homes. Ministers estimate that underinvestment in social housing has led to a £10 billion

Genetic seed trials law may change

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is considering passing retrospective legislation to make trials of genetically modified crops legal after being found guilty by the Court of Appeal of disregarding statutory regulations. Groups opposed to the new technology said yesterday they believed the ruling had effectively invalidated up to 163 seed trials around Britain and could delay commercial planting of gene-altered crops by up to two years. "Our lawyers are looking at this matter very urgently," a Government spokesman said. Three Appeal Court judges agreed last week that the Government appeared to have acted unlawfully in dispensing with regulations requiring that a seed developer must supply data from two years of preliminary tests.

Clean-up 'would shut Sellafield'

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

JOHN PRESCOTT was under growing pressure last night to back a North Sea clean-up that would effectively shut down nuclear reprocessing at the Sellafield plant in Cumbria. Ministers from 15 European countries yesterday gathered in Sintra, Portugal, to agree on new measures to reduce hazardous chemicals, fertiliser wastes and radioactive materials contaminating the north-eastern Atlantic. Norway is demanding that nations back a deal under the Oslo Paris Commission (OSPAR) to cut emissions from nuclear plants to "close to zero" by 2020. They are angry at the rise in levels of a radioactive isotope, technetium 99, which has been found to be building up in seaweed and shellfish since 1994. This was when Sellafield began handling spent liquid fuel

NEWS IN BRIEF

MPs seek to deter smugglers

Cross-Channel drink and cigarette smugglers should lose their driving and haulier's licences in an attempt to cut the estimated £1 billion loss to the Government, MPs are to demand today. They also call on Customs and Excise to remove liquor licences from premises selling smuggled drink and to bring more criminal proceedings against alleged smugglers. Customs figures show that the Government lost £950 million in evaded tax and duty last year as a result of cross-Channel smuggling. The figures do not include commercial fraud and smuggling by air.

Cloning advance

Mice have been cloned for the first time, paving the way for human cloning. The mice, numbering more than 50, are fit and healthy, the scientists from the University of Hawaii say. The genetic machinery of human cells is far more like that of mice than that of Dolly, the sheep cloned last year from the cell of a ewe.

Medical injection

The Government is to increase the number of places for medical students by a fifth to help to solve the acute shortage of doctors. The present total of 5,000 undergraduates a year is planned to increase to 6,000 by 2005. The first 400 places will be available from 2001, mainly in England and Wales.

Sex claim settled

WPC Michelle Thomas, 31, who missed becoming a dog handler when she failed to do 23 press-ups, settled her claim for sex discrimination with £5,000 and an apology from Scotland Yard over the handling of the case. She felt the fitness test was discriminatory because men have greater upper-body strength.

Sailors missing

Fears are growing for a British yachtswoman and her Australian skipper who vanished off the coast of Madagascar six weeks ago with their 39ft yacht. Aerial searches have failed to trace Prince Efloart, 33, a chartered accountant from Cambridge, and Kenneth Heynatz, 57, a retired Australian navy officer.

Denison dies

Michael Denison, who with his wife Dulcie Gray formed one of the most enduring theatrical partnerships of the century, died of cancer at his Buckinghamshire home on Tuesday night, aged 82, his agent said yesterday. The couple appeared in more than 100 West End productions. **Obituary, page 25**

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Nadir 'toasted escape with champagne'

Court is told how Polly Peck businessman was helped to flee British justice by pilot friend, writes Richard Duce

ASIL NADIR, the fugitive businessman still wanted after the collapse of his Polly Peck empire, celebrated a "triumphal" flight from British justice with champagne and caviar after landing at Vienna, a court was told yesterday.



person who flew Asil Nadir out of the country. I have no regrets for doing this."

Mr Nadir skipped his bail on theft and false accounting charges and first flew to France with the help of Peter Dimond, a friend and pilot, from a quiet airport in Dorset. Mr Dimond, 56, left behind his wife and children to live for five years at Mr Nadir's expense in northern Cyprus where the tycoon still lives safe from extradition, the Old Bailey was told.

Mr Dimond admitted in an interview with police helping Mr Nadir to flee Britain. Mr Dimond had known Mr Nadir for several years and he recalled a meeting at a jewellery party after the businessman had been charged and allowed bail provided he surrendered his passport.

Mr Dimond allegedly told police that Mr Nadir confided he did not believe he could prepare his defence unless he went abroad for peace and quiet, and to this day he still believes the fugitive will re-

turn to stand trial. Mr Dimond told police that for a man of wealth and reputation Mr Nadir had "been degraded to a point of desperation". "I felt he was not getting an opportunity to present a defence."

"He made it clear he intended to defend himself and return and prove you all wrong. I felt he deserved that time. He was being attacked from all quarters."

Mr Dimond allegedly told police that Mr Nadir was no longer the man he remembered; he was walking with a stick and was grey in pallor. The businessman asked Mr Dimond, "Can you help?"

The Cabouchon jewellery party was in April 1993 and it is alleged that by May 4 Mr Dimond, who had contacts in the aviation world, had arranged the flight from Compton Abbas airfield to Beauvais in northern France. Mr Nadir had donned a hat and sunglasses and throughout the brief flight sat facing away from the pilot, Clive Hughes, clutching only a briefcase.



Dimond: allegedly told police he had no regrets

There were then welcoming celebrations for Mr Nadir when the jet again refuelled in Istanbul and again when it finally touched down in Cyprus. For almost five years Mr Dimond, 56, formerly of Petersfield, Hampshire, stayed at a hotel in Cyprus, leaving only for trips to Turkey and once to America before he was eventually arrested.

When first apprehended Mr Dimond allegedly told local police: "Do you know what this is? All about? I am the



Daughters of fashion: Jerry Hall and Elizabeth Scarlett modelled black-feathered dresses for Thierry Mugler in Paris yesterday, and Ivanka Trump, daughter of Donald and Ivana, modelled a large plastic hairclip over a black-and-silver ensemble in the Paco Rabane collection



'Failed suicide pact' husband jailed for murdering wife

By ADRIAN LEE

A COMPUTER worker who claimed that he survived a suicide pact with his wife was jailed for life for her murder yesterday.

Ivor Morton took an overdose of painkillers and stabbed himself after burning the body of his wife, Debbie. A suicide note was found beside him, Bristol Crown Court was told. But the jury rejected his claim that there was an agreement they should die together at their home, in Swindon, Wiltshire, because they were in debt.



Debbie Morton: about to leave with daughter

intending to make quick money, but found himself in debt when prices slumped. He was unable to secure a loan to cover the debt without using his wife's name.

When Mrs Morton discovered what was happening she cancelled the arrangement and, it is believed, planned to leave with their child.

"She thwarted his wishes," said Chief Inspector Hatswell. "That led to many rows and there is no doubt that on the day in question there was an argument. At some stage he probably hit her."

Bentley judgment next week

By ADRIAN LEE

THE Court of Appeal reserved judgment yesterday in the appeal against conviction brought on behalf of Derek Bentley, the teenager hanged 45 years ago for murdering a policeman.

Bentley could be pardoned next week when the Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, delivers the court's ruling after a final plea yesterday for the legal system to return his innocence. The simple-minded teenager had been seriously wronged, the court was told. As a result he lost his life and nothing could right that, said Edward Fitzgerald, QC, his counsel. "To give him his innocence of this charge, as fully as possible, would be some recompense."

Hypnotised man enjoyed sense of loss

By DEBORAH COLLCUTT

AN AMERICAN who was told under hypnosis by Paul McKenna that his penis had been removed wrote a letter claiming he had enjoyed the experience.

The man, named only as Benji, wrote in support of the hypnotist, who is being sued for £250,000 in the High Court. Benji, who was hypnotised on an American television chat show, addressed his letter to "Dear British people". It was read out in court yesterday by Anthony Scrivener, QC, counsel for Christopher Gates, who claims he has developed a psychiatric illness after being hypnotised by Mr McKenna in 1994. Benji wrote: "I found the experience to be interesting and I was not distressed while hypnotised or when told my willy had gone."

Pensioner wins jury's backing over gun threat

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A FARMER who chased planning officers off his land with a gun and boobytrapped his isolated home by connecting the metal windows to the electricity supply did nothing wrong, a jury decided yesterday.

Wilfred Lamb, 70, said he had reached for an air rifle in desperation and had fired once towards the sky when the planners, challenging him over an illegally built shed, refused to leave. The widower also said he had been the target of numerous burglaries over ten years and that the boobytrapped windows were for self-defence, although they were hardly ever live.

Protests clear restaurant tables

By DEBORAH COLLCUTT

TWO of London's most exclusive restaurants remain closed today after staff walked out in protest over the departure of the chefs.

The owners of L'Oranger and its sister restaurant, Aubergine, were hurriedly trying to cancel table reservations last night and find 45 replacements for waiters, dishwashers and sous-chefs who downed utensils in support.

Mr McKenna denies causing Mr Gates distress under hypnosis and told the court he was satisfied that he had removed all hypnotic suggestions from him before he came out of his trance.

The court had been told that Mr Lamb had been in dispute with Wychavon District Council for six years over a steel-framed outbuilding on his 14-acre smallholding near Kidderminster. He uses it to store house plants which he sells to passing trade.

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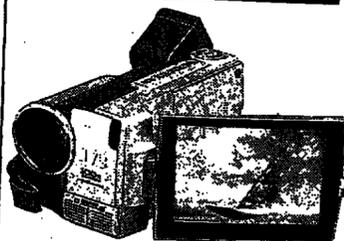


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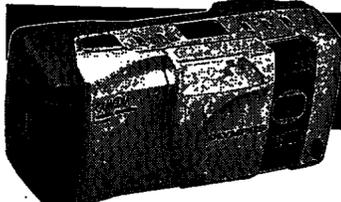
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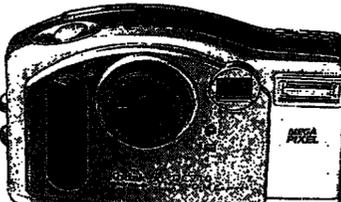
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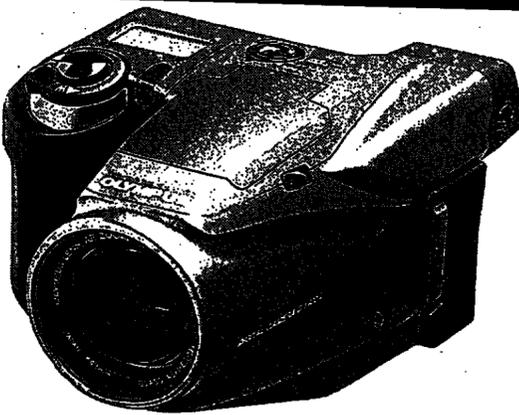
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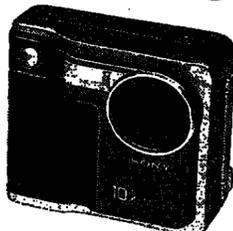


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Law on criminal memoirs may be tightened

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

OFFICIALS at the Home Office have been reprimanded for failing to tell ministers about plans by the child killer Mary Bell to co-operate with the author of *Cries Unheard*.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, said that although officials had acted in good faith, ministers were entitled to expect civil servants to alert them to potential controversies. "With hindsight it is clear that there were a number of occasions on which ministers might reasonably have been informed of developments in the Mary Bell case," he said.

Mr Straw was publishing the findings of an internal inquiry into why civil servants, who had known about the book and plans by the author, Gitta Sereny, to pay Bell for her help, had not told his predecessor, Michael Howard, or himself until publication was imminent.

He said that guidance on dealings with freed life prisoners was being revised in the light of the public outcry that greeted publication. A tightening of the law relating to criminal memoirs was also being considered.

The Home Secretary disclosed that civil servants had known of Bell's interest in producing a book since August 1995, and since January 1996 had known of serious negotiations over the book between Sereny, Bell and a literary agent.

In July that year they had been told that a contract had been signed and an advance payment made. Mr Straw said that officials had reacted to the development by questioning the wisdom of the proposals while confirming correctly that they had no power to prevent publication.

The Probation Service had alerted civil servants on March 6 this year that the book would appear shortly and was likely to arouse controversy. Mr Straw said that although officials recognised the need to warn ministers, they had not acted for almost seven weeks, until April 23, because they had been told that serialisation would not start until May 2. They had not made it clear that they and the Probation Service had known about the contract from the outset. In a written Commons reply, Mr Straw said ministers received a full briefing on the history of the case only the day after *The Times* began serialisation.

Mr Straw also disclosed that since 1980 reports to the Lifer Review Unit about Bell had included accounts of attempts to induce her to tell her story for substantial sums.

THE Press Complaints Commission has backed *The Times* over its serialisation of *Cries Unheard*, the biography of the child killer Mary Bell.

It rejected complaints about payment made to Bell, who was convicted of manslaughter, from the proceeds of the book, saying that there was "compelling" justification for the publication of the story in the public interest.

The commission described as "highly cogent" the argument put forward by Peter Stothard, Editor of *The Times*, that only by trying to understand what could have driven a girl of 11 to kill two small boys could society come closer to stopping such crimes.

The commission was adjudicating on whether *The Times* had breached the commission's Code of Practice by paying the publisher, Macmillan, for the right to serialise the book. Gitta Sereny, the author, paid Bell an undisclosed amount for her time and co-operation with the biography.

Clause 16 of the Code of Practice prohibits payment to confessed or convicted criminals by the press except where the publication of such stories is in the public interest.

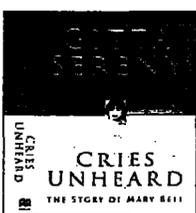
The 16 members of the commission, including the chairman, Lord Wakeham, said that they had noted many areas of public interest defence from *The Times*.

These included "the circumstances in which a child who grew up in surroundings of depravity came to be a murderer, the connection between Bell's own crime and the abuse to which she herself was subjected, and the first authoritative account of how the penal system deals with child criminals".

The adjudication said: "The commission found the newspaper's public interest arguments in the case of the serialisation of *Cries Unheard* to be compelling. The newspaper summed up that public interest as something that 'runs like a spine through [Gitta Sereny's book] and was the reason why Sereny felt impelled to return to the case she covered at the time of the trial'."

Bell, who has lived under another name since being

Serialisation of biography had 'compelling' justification. Carol Midgley reports



released from jail in 1980, was forced to tell her 14-year-old daughter of her true identity after harassment from other newspapers at the time of serialisation. The commission noted this, saying that it had to assume there would have been a furor about payments to Bell for the biography regardless of the serialisation in *The Times*.

The commission also rejected complaints about three other newspapers that had carried stories which involved payment to convicted criminals. *The Express* and *The Mirror* were criticised about payments made to the nurses Deborah Parry and Lucille McLaughlan, who were jailed in Saudi Arabia after the murder of a colleague.

The commission found the

ment which goes beyond the scope of the commission and an objective code at the heart of which is the public interest and the public's right to know. It is a matter of broader public policy for Government and Parliament."

The commission members adjudicating were: Lord Wakeham, former Tory minister; Arzina Bhanji, dental surgeon; Lady Browne-Wilkinson, solicitor; Iris Burton, Editor-in-Chief, IPC Magazines; Tom Clarke, former Editor of *The Sporting Life*; Jim Cassidy, Editor, *Sunday Mail* (Scotland); Graham Collyer, Editor of *Surrey Advertiser*; Sir Brian Cubbon, former Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Home Office; Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde, former leader of the Sogat print union; Sir David English, chairman of Associated Newspapers, who died last month; John Griffith, Editor, *Liverpool Echo*; Professor Robert Pinker, social science academic; Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill, widow of John Smith, the late Labour leader; Lord Tordoff, former Liberal Democrat Chief Whip; the Right Rev John Waive, former Bishop of Chelmsford; John Witherow, Editor of *The Sunday Times*.



Gitta Sereny, the author, paid Mary Bell for her time and co-operation

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THE PLOT TO KILL THE FUHRER

'Hitler must be bombed - this is no joke'

THE plot by the Special Operations Executive to kill Hitler started when a "reliable source" in Algiers revealed to British intelligence that the German dictator was at that moment in a chateau in Perpignan, southern France, and suggested it be bombed immediately.

Michael Evans on how SOE decided to risk turning the Nazi leader into a martyr

In a memo sent on January 30 1944, marked "Most Immediate", a senior SOE official said that the information had been passed on by Duff Cooper, who became Ambassador to Paris later that year. Cooper had asked SOE to examine the operational possibilities and said he was going to talk to Anthony Eden, the Foreign Secretary. The memo ended: "We are not, repeat not, mad nor is this a joke."

The information, supplied by a French colonel, was never acted on, but it generated one of the most secret feasibility studies of the Second World War: could Hitler be assassinated? On Wednesday, June 28, 1944, in Room 312 at the War Office, Major-General Colin Gubbins, head of the clandestine sabotage organisation, was chairing a meeting when he said they would need to find out Hitler's whereabouts and then work out a way "to deal with him".

He noted: "At some time in the near future, Hitler must in any case disappear from the scene, even if we should not be the direct agents for his elimi-

nation, and we can at least prepare such action to be taken on his disappearance as will contribute best towards the situation most favourable to the Allied nations."

The head of SOE's German section, referred to in the files as "X" but now known to be Lieutenant-Colonel R.H. Thornley, said he was personally opposed to Operation Foxley, as he believed the German war strategy would be improved if Hitler was killed. He also warned the Germans would "canonise" Hitler as a martyr while it would be "disastrous" if it was believed the Allies had to resort to these "low methods" because they were unable to defeat the German military machine. He added: "As a strategist, Hitler has been of the greatest possible assistance to the British war effort."

After much debate it was generally agreed that Operation Foxley was "desirable".

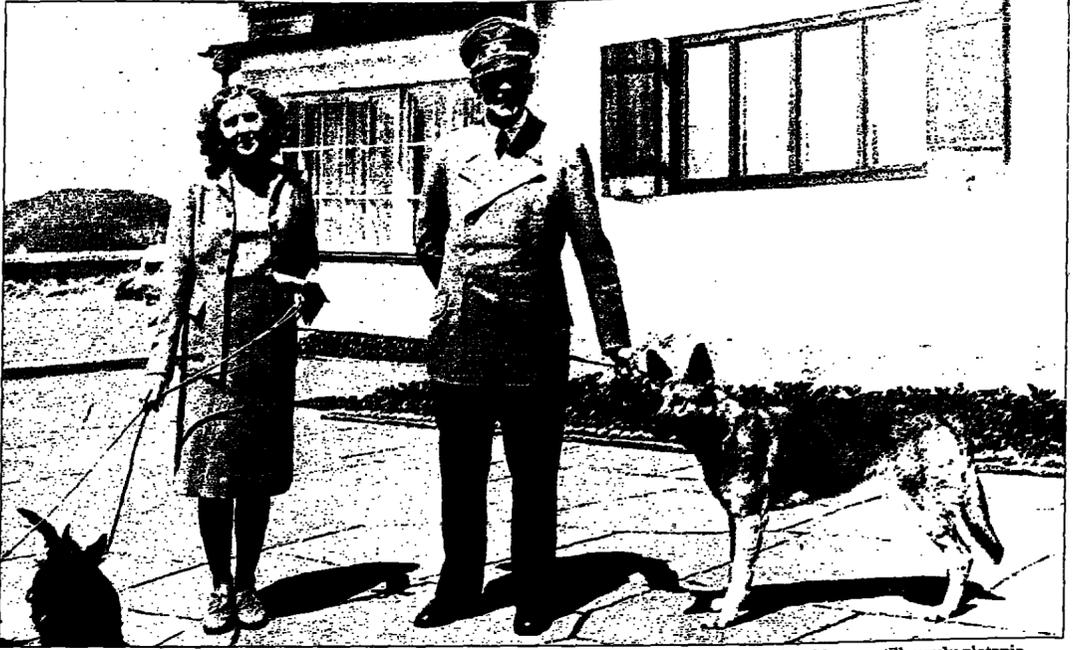
Colonel Thornley said that if the operation was successful, the blame should be placed on the German Armed Forces as this was more likely to result in a state of civil war.

Sir Stewart Merzies, "C" (Chief of MI6) was told of the plan. He was neither enthusiastic nor optimistic, but promised to set up a small staff for the job. A minute from Major-General Gubbins, codenamed "CD" in the SOE files, said he had told "C" that "he would be grateful for any help on keeping track of the gentleman".

Winston Churchill was personally informed that the Chiefs of Staff had given their blessings to the project. On June 21, 1944, General Sir Hastings Ismay, Secretary to the War Cabinet, sent a memo to Churchill saying: "The Chiefs of Staff were unanimous that from the strictly military point of view, it was almost an advantage that Hitler remain in control of German strategy, having regard to the blunders he has made, but on the wider point of view, the sooner he was got out of the way the better."

One of the keenest supporters of Operation Foxley was Air Vice-Marshal AP Ritchie, Air Adviser to the SOE Council which met once a week. He said Hitler was held to be "something more than human" by a large section of the German population. "It is this mystical hold that is largely responsible for keeping the country together at the present time. Remove Hitler and there is nothing left."

A detailed 120-page report itemised everything known about Hitler: his movements, his habits, his personal likes and dislikes, the precise layout of his hideaway in the Bavarian Alps, the number of guards who watched him, and whether Eva Braun, his flamboyant 24-year-old secretary was having sex with him. They decided that at that stage it was purely platonic. When staying at his Berghof resi-



Adolf Hitler with his secretary Eva Braun: the research by British plotters concluded that their relationship was still purely platonic

dence in the Berchtesgaden area, Hitler was a late riser, according to informants believed to have included local anti-Nazi agents, MI6 agents and SAS undercover soldiers.

Hitler had milk and toast for breakfast between 11am and 11.30am and his lunch consisted only of vegetables. After lunch he worked, usually with Braun. Poisoning Hitler's tea was considered. There was a chemical called "I" whose main advantage was that it had a delayed action, which meant that Hitler would gradually feel ill, giving time for the assassin to flee. The substance was tasteless and odourless. Hitler was also "extremely fond of apple juice" and "I" was considered an ideal poison that would not change the appearance of this drink. To poison the water on his train would involve the more difficult task of getting access to a number of bottles.

Blowing up the Führer's train would involve laying explosives on the track in a tunnel on the Salzburg-Berlin line or at the Schloss Klessheim sidings, where the distinctive violet carriages were kept or at Salzburg railway station. An alternative was to derail the train by

throwing a suitcase of explosives underneath, using operatives who would link up with local anti-Nazi Germans.

Of all the possible methods, Operation Foxley concluded Hitler's walk to the rehouse was regarded as the best opportunity for a sniper attack. The assassins would be in the uniforms of German mountain troops, armed with Mauser sniper rifles with telescopic sights and carrying high explosive grenades for self-protection. The operation involved cutting through a wire fence while avoiding German dog patrols.

Questions were asked about the type of person who would be chosen for the mission: would he have false teeth, glasses or "have any physical peculiarity such as wearing a truss or false limb". While an assassin with an artificial leg was considered "most unlikely", it was agreed that he should wear glasses, even if he did not want them.

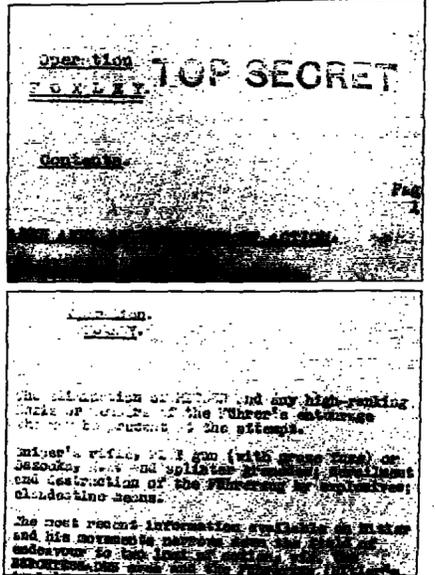
The man chosen was working among the 6,000 British diplomatic staff in the United States, although there is no reason given for his selection. On March 16, 1945, a cable was sent to New York from the SOE in London with a request

to sound out Captain E.H. Bennett, a military attaché at the Embassy in Washington, but without mentioning Operation Foxley.

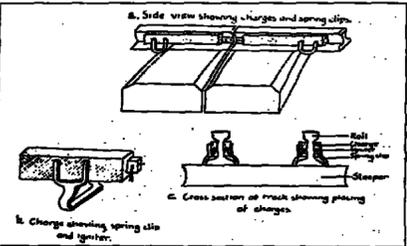
The reply was encouraging. "He, far from being discouraged by my intimations of the possible roughness of the assignment, showed even greater keenness," it said. Captain Bennett said he would like to get "a permanent clandestine job" and would be happy to live in Germany after the war had ended.

However, on March 26 there was a further cable to New York. "Under present circumstances do not feel justified in applying for this officer. May revert later." And on April 6, a note to General Gubbins said: "This type of operation is not now under consideration."

Although there is no full explanation, it appeared that the planning for Operation Foxley had run out of time. Other than Captain Bennett, there had been no other candidates for the job, and the war was coming to a close. The Chiefs of Staff had been right in their initial caution. Hitler alive was causing more problems for Germany's war efforts than Hitler dead.



The file on Operation Foxley, including a list of possible requirements for the assassination



The plan for laying charges under Hitler's train

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Partial advertisement on the right edge of the page. It includes the text 'Need', 'Forg', and 'rum'. At the bottom, there is a large advertisement for 'MONE SPEND' with the slogan 'Spend money and get...'. It also includes the phone number '0800 700 11' and the text 'Quoting ref. TMP2'.

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THE PLOT TO KILL THE FUHRER

Need for Nazi Germany's total defeat made plans dubious

Professor Ian Kershaw analyses the questions that faced the Special Operations Executive in 1944

SHOULD British agents have attempted to assassinate Hitler during the last months of the war? What would have been their chances of success?

assassination were drawn up and finally abandoned only towards the end of March 1945.

"Unconditional Surrender", decided upon at the Casablanca Conference in January 1943, ruled out for Churchill not only any prospect of negotiating with Hitler, but also with any German leaders who might succeed him.

this time, Hitler's popularity in Germany had dwindled as military defeats and the destruction of German cities intensified.

explain Germany's defeat, and which had poisoned German politics. A successful SOE assassination attempt, even more than one from within Germany, would unquestionably have produced a backlash of support for Hitler.

left, would have proved illusory. The strengthening of the hand of the fanatical Nazis would probably have resulted in a takeover by one of Hitler's subordinates, leaving the Allies either to negotiate with Hitler's successor, or to continue the military conflict.

an SAS battalion into his alpine residence. The disadvantages to the Allies of a failed attempt can only too easily be contemplated.

Ian Kershaw is Professor of Modern History at the University of Sheffield. Volume One of his biography, Hitler, 1889-1936: Hubris, will be published by Penguin in September. The second volume will appear in 1999.

Forged stamps sped rumour of betrayal

Himmler's image on mail implied a coup, reports Michael Evans

BRITISH agents forged stamps featuring Heinrich Himmler, the Nazi SS chief, in an attempt to undermine Hitler's authority.

The declassified files reveal that agents planted in Germany by the Special Operations Executive posted mail bearing the stamps to Sweden, Portugal and other neutral countries.

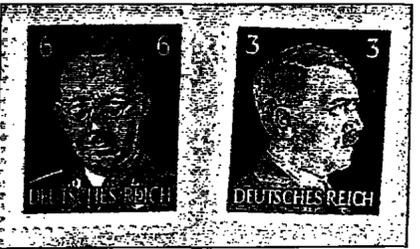
At first the propaganda campaign did not cause even a ripple of interest in Sweden. Matters with the Himmler stamps to addresses in Stockholm without effect.

newspaper. Although there was no immediate reaction, interest began to be generated and a story appeared saying that the stamps were part of a batch ordered by Himmler to celebrate his coup.

The strategy was part of a constant stream of "black propaganda" sent into Germany and Nazi-occupied territories by SOE with the aim of damaging enemy morale and spreading confusion.

late in 1942, shortly before rumours surfaced from Berlin that Hitler had appointed Himmler, his chief of police and architect of the Holocaust, as his successor.

About 5,000 of the stamps, few of which were used, were printed in strict secrecy for distribution to SOE agents in Germany and neutral countries.



The Himmler fake and a genuine Hitler issue

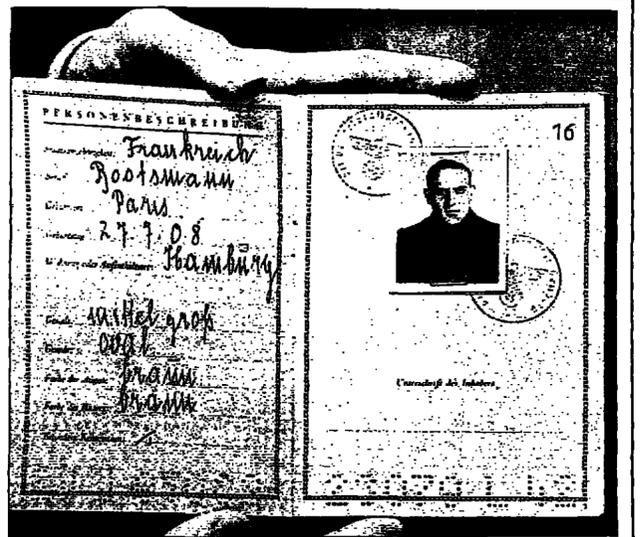
Spy nearly died in bid to sabotage V2 rockets

A COVERT attempt to sabotage production of Germany's V2 rockets was mounted by a lone British agent (Michael Evans writes).

Lieutenant Robert Baker-Byrne was parachuted into Germany with a mission to knock out a plant manufacturing precision equipment for the missiles, used in Hitler's final desperate effort to bring Britain to its knees.

Recently promoted from sergeant, he had lived in Germany before the war and was fluent in the language. After his night-time drop in November 1944, he quickly found that his cover as a French worker with the Todt organisation, the Nazi slave labour group, was inadequate.

He emerged during the cover of an Allied air-raid and made his way to the plant where he started to prepare his charges.



Lieutenant Baker-Byrne's forged papers were different from the real ones

He realised that he was very lucky to survive and return safely when his uniform, papers and cover story were all inadequate." His position went from bad to worse. When he reached Berlin he was spotted by a plainclothes detective who recognised him from his time in the city before the war.

He decided to lie low in a local cinema before carrying out his attack on the plant.

By this time he had decided that the job could not be done single-handed and so he tried to leave as unobtrusively as possible. "Fortunately there were some heaps of debris on the pavement, also there were plenty of people about, so he was easily able to avoid two shots that were fired after him," the document said.

Sex — SOE's secret weapon

ELABORATE propaganda about the sex lives of leading Nazis was circulated by Special Operations Executive agents in an attempt to wreak havoc behind enemy lines.

Office, marked "top secret", details the sexual peccadilloes of key figures, including Heinrich Himmler, the SS chief. The revelations were based on little more than gossip, but were expanded to give the impression to the German public that their leaders were involved in non-stop orgies.

A report drawn up in July 1942 by an SOE operative reads: "A particular attraction at this time was a large roulette wheel on which a naked girl had been strapped. Christian Weber, drunk as usual, was acting as croupier and set the table in motion. The audience of mainly SS men sat ready round the table. The gentleman opposite the girl when the wheel stops then obliges."

Noting that "a good time was had by all", the report says the woman strapped to the roulette wheel ended the game unconscious. The document, headed "Adults Only", is accompanied by a note to SOE planners that they are dealing with a "ticklish subject".

Himmler, who planned the Holocaust and took his own life in 1945, is described as the "protector" of a fascist cult, although the SOE document recognises his involvement is based on rumour rather than hard fact. According to the file, the semi-religious group would meet in the cloisters of a castle in eastern Germany to perform sex acts while accompanied by his high priestess, a lead singer with the Berlin State Opera.

The file, which also gives details of a German bomber used as an airborne brothel on the Russian and Balkan fronts in 1941, and a Norwegian cruise ship used as a floating brothel, details the activities of homosexual Nazis. Dr Theodor Auer, German consul in Casablanca, was said to be having an affair with the son of a local sheikh. Similarly, an Oberleutnant Schmidt, in charge of the Nazi propaganda operation in Paris, is described as a uniform fetishist who held homosexual orgies in his chateau at Brié, east of the French capital.

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Young offenders freed to resume outdoor courses

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

YOUNG offenders are to be allowed to take outdoor adventure courses and go on day release under a relaxation of detention rules announced last night.

Governors will be able to let young offenders take part in challenging award-style schemes and play sports against local teams outside institutions. Jack Straw unveiled a package of measures to make it easier for young criminals aged between 15 and 21 to attend interviews for jobs and training on release.

The Home Secretary is also to ease the regulations preventing young offenders and adults from getting paid work outside jails as part of a drive to encourage prison governors to develop employment links with industry.

The changes relax regulations imposed in the early 1990s by Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary, after

a series of high-profile failures by prisoners working in the community. There had also been public concern over youngsters being sent on adventure courses, by probation and social service departments.

Mr Straw said the existing system placed too great a limit on the ability of governors to develop activities that help to prepare offenders for resettlement. "It shows that the Prison Service is involved in our broader policy agenda on tackling youth crime," he said.

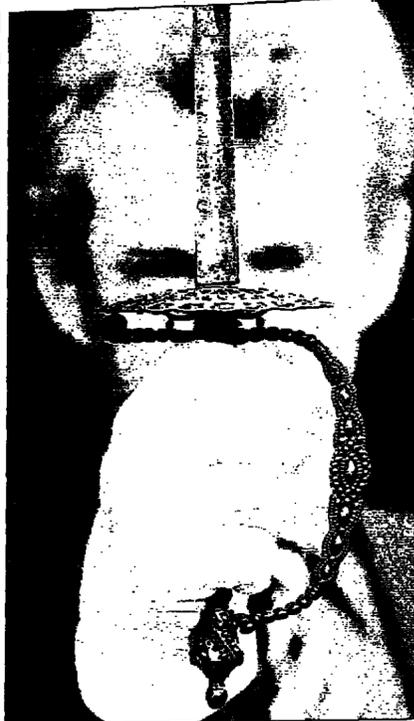
The Home Secretary, giving the annual Prison Reform Trust lecture at the Café Royal in London, said that from September governors of young offender institutions, currently holding 11,621 inmates, would be allowed to develop challenging activities outside their walls. Offenders involved in projects in the community to repair the dam-

age caused by their crimes will be allowed to have an overnight stay away from the institution.

Mr Straw also announced that offenders will be allowed compassionate leave to visit their parents if the parents are unable to visit them because of illness or disability.

Mr Straw attempted to reassure the public by saying that offenders would be allowed only temporary release or to take part in outdoor activities or sports if they underwent a risk assessment. He said that tougher assessments introduced by Mr Howard had cut the number of temporary release failures by 85 per cent from 2,300 to 319 in the year to April 1998.

The announcement follows concern expressed by Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, at the curtailment of outside activities for prisoners.



Scrutiny of the bounty: the court sword of Captain Bligh, which is to be auctioned in Penzance today

MP calls for home sellers to disclose flood risks

By Nick Nuttall

HOMEOWNERS planning to sell their property would be legally required to disclose if it is at risk from flooding under proposals backed by the Environment Agency.

The scheme, drawn up in the wake of the Easter flooding, would also place the same duty on landlords, caravan and camp sites, hotels, boarding houses and developers.

The plan emerged yesterday in a ten-minute rule Bill introduced by Sally Keeble, the MP for Northampton North. Geoff Mance, director of water management at the agency, said it had no chance of becoming law but was aimed at increasing awareness among ministers and officials. "We believe that people developing, building or selling houses should be required to find out from us if it is in a flood risk area and that they pass this on to prospective buyers," he said.

The scheme, which could affect a million houses in England and Wales, also has the support of the Association of British Insurers.

No escape for parents under CSA reforms

By Mark Henderson

EVERY absent father will have to make at least nominal maintenance payments to his children under reforms planned for the Child Support Agency, the Commons Select Committee on Social Security was told yesterday.

Baroness Hollis of Heigham, the junior Social Security Minister responsible for the agency, told the committee that changes to the child support system outlined in the Government's Green Paper on the CSA would be based on the principle that every parent should help out with their children's maintenance. "The expectation is that every non-resident parent with a child from an earlier relationship has a contribution to make, however nominal, to that child," she said.

Absent parents would escape payments only when they had no income. Fathers claiming the jobseeker's allowance or disability benefits would not be exempt, even if they had responsibilities to children from a current relationship.

Parents had a continuing responsibility to their children which outlasted the breakdown of marriages and relationships, Lady Hollis said. "She may divorce him, he may divorce her, but neither of them can divorce the child."

Under the CSA reform proposals, which were announced earlier this month by Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, and which will come into force in 2001, absent parents' maintenance payments will be calculated on a fixed-rate basis instead of the present complicated formula. Fathers will pay 15 per cent of their income after tax for one child, 20 per cent for two children and 25 per cent for three or more. Officials expect new cases to be assessed within four to six weeks.

Most fathers will pay less, but greater compliance will mean more maintenance will be paid out and the Treasury will save on benefit payments. The average assessment will fall from £38 a week to £29.

Lady Hollis said greater simplicity and lower levels of payment would encourage a "culture of compliance" with the agency that would deliver fairness and benefit savings. "We have got one opportunity to reform the child support system in this country and we must not blow it," she said.

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Tourists break records in tramping TV's living scenery

Top series helped to raise holiday spending in England to £11bn, report Carol Midgley and Alex O'Connell

HOLIDAYMAKERS in England, many lured by the charm of such television shows as *Heartbeat* and *Last of the Summer Wine*, spent a record £11.7 billion last year, it was announced yesterday.

The English Tourist Board said spending was up by 9 per cent on 1996. Tourists made more than 111 million trips involving overnight stays, the highest since records began to be kept in 1989.

Television and films proved a major force in marketing visitors to Goathland in North Yorkshire, where the BBC series *Heartbeat* is filmed, totalling 1.3 million last year. This compared with 50,000 a decade ago, before the series began.

More than 750,000 visitors flocked to Manchester's Granada Studios Tour to walk down Coronation Street and have a drink in a mock-up of the Rover's Return, Carnforth railway station, Lancashire, the setting for the kiss in *Brief Encounter*, still draws more than 100,000 people a year.

While the prospect of armies

of tourists clutching packed lunches and information packs may strike horror into the hearts of local residents, it is thrilling news for tourist officials. A spokeswoman for the English Tourist Board said: "Television programmes such as *Heartbeat* and films such as *Pride and Prejudice* have opened people's eyes to the many outstandingly beautiful but lesser-known areas of the country. The result is that more and more people want to tread in the footsteps of their favourite screen stars and literary characters, which is excellent news for tourism."

The board's annual report cites Beatrix Potter as a major influence in drawing visitors to Bowness-on-Windermere in Cumbria. Last year the World of Beatrix Potter Exhibition drew 150,000 people, a quarter of them Japanese. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* is used to teach English to children in Japan.

Sudbury Hall in Derbyshire, which was used as Mr Darcy's house in the BBC's *Pride and Prejudice*, experienced a huge upsurge in

visitors after the series was screened in 1996. Many of the costumes were displayed there.

In 1995 the hall received 40,600 visitors, rising to 64,600 in 1996. In 1997, despite the costumes having been removed, visitor figures for the hall were 53,000.

Holmfirth, in West Yorkshire, where *Last of the Summer Wine*, the longest-running television comedy series, is filmed, drew 250,000 people last year. An estimated 1.39 million tourists were attracted to Thirsk in North Yorkshire, now known as Herriot Country. The experiences of the vet James Herriot in the area were described in his books, a film and the television series *All Creatures Great and Small*.

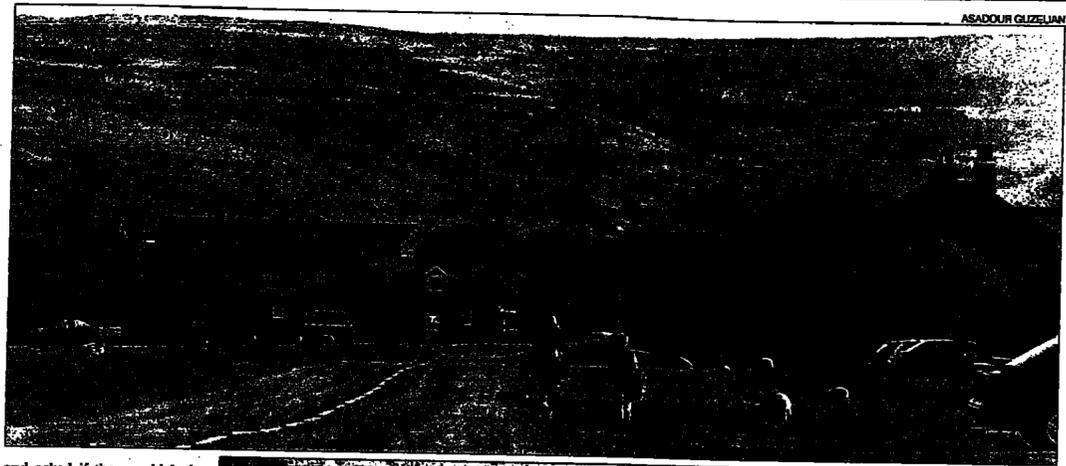
The report warns, however, that the success of branding can be overwhelming. Last year Herriot's house and surgery in Thirsk were sold after the vets became tired of constant intrusions. In one day alone, 60 American tourists had knocked on the door

and asked if they could look round. The house is to become the Herriot Visitors' Centre.

The West Country was again the most popular spot last year, accounting for 16.7 million trips and £2.8 billion spending. The second most visited area was East England, generating 14.8 million trips and £1.6 billion.

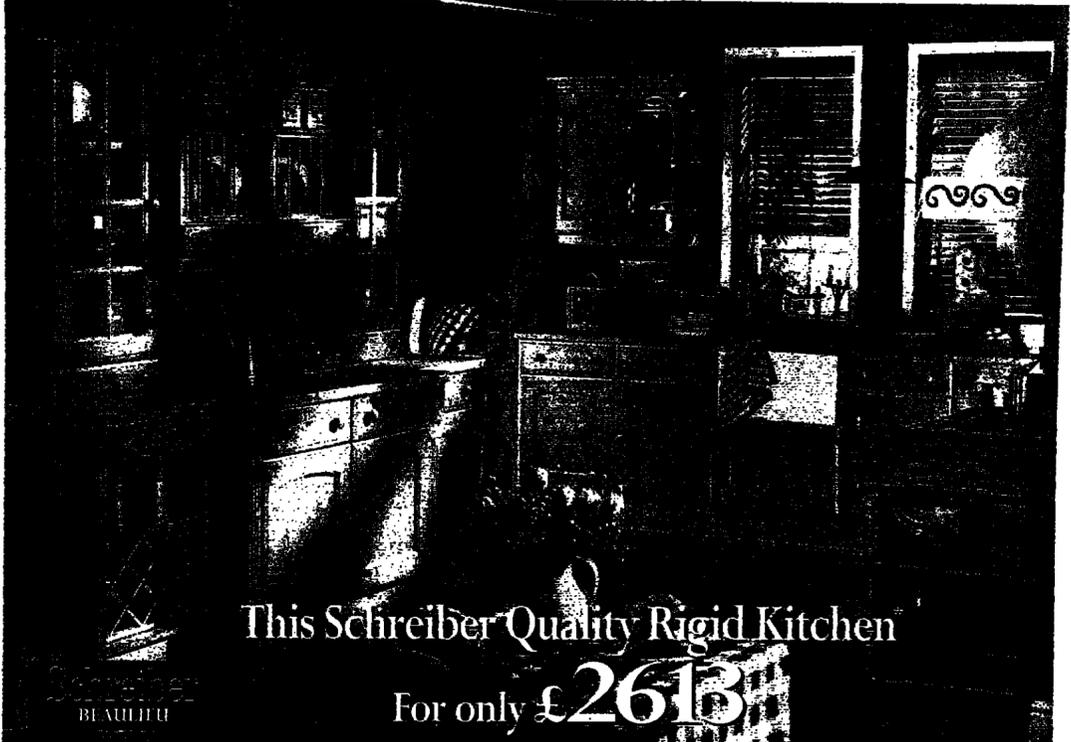
Business and work trips fell by 6 per cent to 13.1 million but the amount spent during these trips rose by 2 per cent to £2.1 billion. The biggest spending rise was 18 per cent on breaks of up to three nights, during which £2.5 billion was spent.

Nearly two in five trips were made to the seaside, generating £3.6 billion. England's tourism industry provides jobs for 1.5 million people and tourism spending in England accounts for 85 per cent of tourism spending in the whole United Kingdom.



Goathland on the North York Moors, top, attracts visitors in its incarnation as *Heartbeat's* Aidsfield

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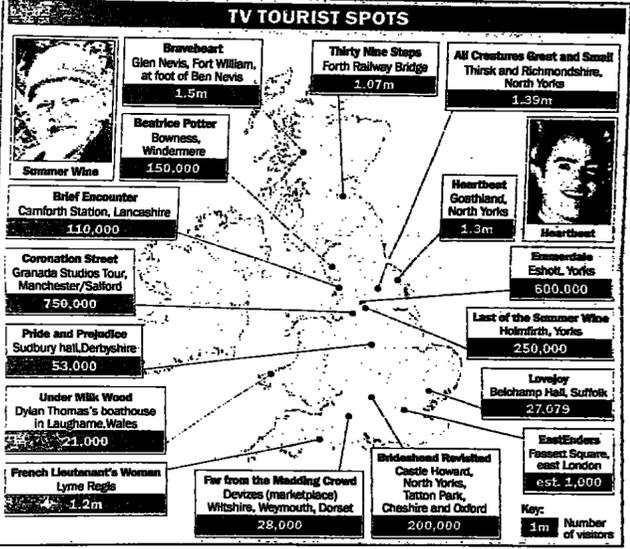
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Princess's display firm still at estate

By DANIEL MCGHORY

THE company that has gone into receivership after creating the museum in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, at Althorp said last night that it was still owed £90,000 by her brother, Earl Spencer.

The Charles Spencer Group, which last year had a turnover of £40 million, is still doing work at the earl's estate. It is best known for shop-fitting.

Earlier this year, Earl Spencer said that he had had to borrow £3 million from the bank to pay for the refurbishment of his estate. The interior of the museum cost £300,000 to complete. So far the earl has paid about a third of his bill.

A spokesman for the group said yesterday: "He is not late with his payment and we still hope to fulfil our contract." Aides of the earl say he has met his payments promptly.

A spokesman for the company said it hoped to sell it and continue work at Althorp.

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00 codes will be, as they have been for a while, exclusively for international dialling. Our national area codes already use 01. Some of them will become 02, 03, 04, 05 and 06 prefixes will be set aside as an immense reserve of numbers that should last for many years to come.

07 will be for mobiles, pagers and personal numbers (we call them 'Find me anywhere' numbers). 08 will be used for freephone and other special rate numbers, while 09 will indicate premium rate numbers such as entertainment and information services.

As you can see, this reorganisation is a really 'Big Number.' And, although you'll notice that some changes have been introduced already (some new mobiles have the 07 prefix as we speak and new roles for 08 and 09 numbers are now being introduced), most of the changes won't happen overnight.

For areas receiving new codes, the changes will be phased in from June 1999, with new and existing codes running concurrently for *over a year*. Everyone will have plenty of time to prepare.

In the meantime, you'll find details of the planned number changes on our website which you can visit on www.numberchange.org or call our freephone helpline - 0808 22 4 2000.

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Councillor jailed for fiddling expenses

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A FORMER councillor who falsely claimed £214 on expenses was jailed for 28 days yesterday. Jack Riley was among councillors at Doncaster investigated by police over allegations of widespread abuse of power and fraud on the Labour-dominated authority.

Riley, 68, an Independent Labour councillor, had previously admitted three counts of falsifying expenses when he appeared before magistrates in Doncaster. He asked for three other offences to be considered. He resigned from Doncaster Borough Council after his first court appearance.

When questioned by officers as to why he had over-claimed for travel expenses, Riley had replied: "It was standard practice. I acted on the advice of other councillors. It was not right but I went along with what I was told."

Neville White, the stipendiary magistrate, told him: "This is a tragedy for you and for your family but you were elected by the residents of your ward and you used the office they had given you to steal their money by fiddling your accounts."

"People have got to be able to trust their representatives. The fact that it was only £214 is not the point. It is the fact that you betrayed the trust that is important."

Anthony Barry, for the prosecution, said that Riley, from Rossington, near Doncaster, had claimed £138 for a first-class rail ticket to a community campaign meeting in Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire, in November 1996, although he had paid £102 for a standard fare. He claimed £128 for first-class travel to an open-cast coal seminar at Dalkeith in Midlothian in October 1995, when again he bought a standard ticket.

Riley had admitted claiming £44 in mileage to attend a community campaign meet-

ing in Huddersfield in October 1995. Mr Barry said that he had travelled there by train and been given a lift home by a council officer.

Paul Bullen, for Riley, said he was ashamed of what he had done and had repaid the council £340 to cover the total of disputed expenses. He said: "He has served as a parish councillor and school governor and has been involved with miners' welfare, youth clubs and other local causes over the years. He has probably put in more hours for the community per week than a lot of people do in their full-time jobs."

He said Riley accepted that he had committed a serious breach of trust but had made little profit from his wrongdoing. He lived in a house worth £25,000 and had £1,000 in savings. His health and that of his wife and daughter, were poor and his reputation was now at "rock bottom".

Mr Bullen said: "It is perhaps his misfortune that he is at the sharp end of this case. He is the first person to come to court and be sentenced. The reasons for that are because his offences are not the most serious and he has admitted his guilt straightaway."

Four other Doncaster councillors have been arrested. Detectives began inquiries in April last year after allegations that councillors dealt favourably with planning applications from developers, harassed officials into complying with their wishes and abused their positions.

One councillor is awaiting committal proceedings next month for trial at Crown Court and another will appear before Doncaster magistrates tomorrow. Another is expected to be charged today to appear in court on August 24 and the fourth has been bailed without charge pending further police inquiries. All the charges relate to false accounting.

Fleshing out the bare bones of historic London

Skeletons have provided new clues to 4,000 years of life in the capital, says Dalya Alberge

THE face of Charles I's executioner has been recreated from his skull by scientists using computer imagery. Far from having an expression that fits the Hollywood mould of a hangman, Richard Brandon had fine, distinctive features.

"It is not an unattractive face," said Alex Werner, curator of an ambitious exhibition planned for the autumn by the Museum of London. Brandon, who came from a family of executioners and as a child practised decapitating heads on cats and dogs, is a star attraction in the show, which will draw on the museum's 6,500-strong collection of human remains excavated from sites across the capital. Most are kept in cardboard boxes, each little larger than a shoe box. The archive is not for the faint-hearted: the collection includes 672 bodies from a 14th-century Black Death cemetery near the Tower of London.



Bill White, an osteologist, with the skull of a woman who died from syphilis and whose skeleton was found in a pauper's burial ground

What might initially seem to be a morbid exercise — particularly as the display will recreate the atmosphere of a laboratory or morgue — will in fact be a serious exploration of the ways in which Londoners have changed since prehistoric times. A neolithic woman from Shepperton, Surrey, who died 4,000 years ago, will represent some of the earliest citizens; the models Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell are likely to feature in a section on modern bodies.

Simon Thurley, the museum's director, said that "London Bodies", which opens on October 27, will examine what Londoners ate, how they lived, the diseases they suffered from and what they did to improve their appearance. "Were they taller, shorter, fatter, thinner? Were their teeth more rotten, were they fairer, darker? As diet changed in London, did

that affect the way people looked?"

Some of the bones from victims of the Black Death, for example, show traces of the famine of 1315-17, which stunted growth. The 679 bodies from Roman cemeteries to the east of the City show that the average male was the same height as the modern Londoner, and that most people had an adequate diet.

Dr Thurley said the poorly fitting shoes and wizened, worn-away toes of an Anglo-Saxon skeleton suggested arthritis exacerbated by repetitive movements, such as crouching and heavy load carrying. "Saxon Londoners and Norman Londoners spent a lot of time on their haunches, which suggests they didn't have tables and chairs. Most of their activities were done on haunches," he said.

Thurley said, "dirty and smelly, with matted hair. They were neatly combed. We don't know if they washed, but they took greater care of their appearance than we might think."

The exhibition could not

however, tell the whole story. Dr Thurley said, "just the bare bones".

The recreation of Brandon's face is all the more important because no portrait of him is known to have survived; even the King may not have seen the face of his executioner, judging from a contemporary engraving that suggests his head was covered. "This is our first glimpse of how he looked," Dr Werner said. The skull was unearthed in the 1870s at St Mary Whitechapel, when the foundations of a new church cut through his grave.

Among five other facial reconstructions of people from the Roman period to the 18th century is a teenage girl who lived around 1040 and whose teeth and skeleton were perfect. In sharp contrast is the grotesquely deformed body of an 18th century infant who died of

rickets. Rickets reflected a vitamin D deficiency brought on by diet or narrow streets that excluded sunlight.

A skull from an 18th century woman suffering from syphilis, found in a pauper's burial ground in Southwark, shows the decay eating away at the back of the eye socket. The woman, possibly a prostitute, would have had open sores on her face. "A nasty situation", said Bill White, the museum's human osteologist.

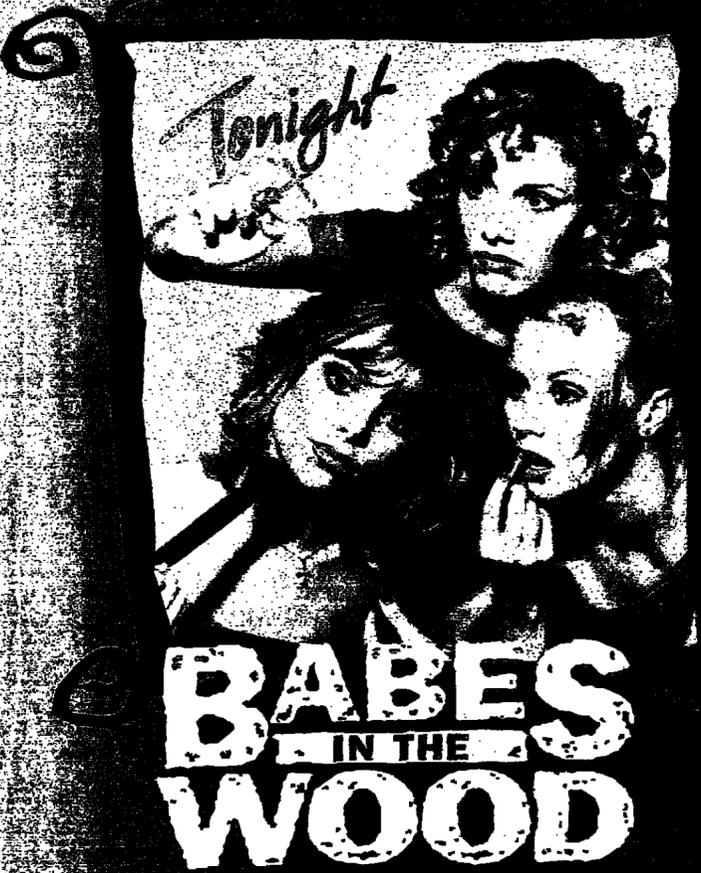
Remains from St John's, Clerkenwell, tell the sorry tale of a death in childbirth. The baby's head had emerged, but its body could not be coaxed out, and mother and child died.

Among other exhibits will be a thonged Roman bikini — just as skimpy as today's version and probably worn by female acrobats and performers.



Computerised image and skull of Richard Brandon

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Bland wins two more years as BBC chairman

Decision confounds critics, writes Andrew Pierce

DOWNING STREET yesterday announced an unexpected two-year extension to Sir Christopher Bland's contract as the Chairman of the BBC Board of Governors.

£17,000-a-year vice-chairwoman of the BBC, ending a protracted political wrangle over the post.

affairs and agricultural advisory council which monitors the plot of *The Archers*.



Sir Christopher Bland, who will stay on until 2003, and Baroness Young of Old Scone, his new deputy

Experts in glass houses shouldn't be this thrown

By PAUL WILKINSON

EMBARRASSED designers of the £16 million National Glass Centre have launched an investigation into why glass roofing panels have cracked less than a month after it opened.

derland. One side of the roof is level with the car park. Staff say they have seen youngsters on the roof with inline skates and skateboards.

advert." About a dozen panels were discovered to be cracked shortly before the building opened last month.

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Now: a little less nippy, former Lyons waitresses gathered to mark the 90th anniversary of the opening of the first Lyons Corner House

Nippies recall days of tea and romance

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE talk was of serving tea to Winston Churchill and how an extra large slice of Swiss roll and a smile could lead to marriage.

in the 1970s. Those who gathered at the Waldorf Hotel in London yesterday mourned the passing of an institution that not only provided good, cheap food in smart surroundings, but offered staff training that would be hard to find outside the military.

A customer was reputed to have said "these ladies are too fast to be waitresses, they are too nippy". They had to be quick, too, in order to cope with the attentions of those men who could make a cup of tea last an afternoon as they eyed up the talent.



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There's a Great Deal going on

We can't afford to waste extra cash, says Blair

TONY BLAIR told his MPs yesterday that the Government would not be forgiven if it wasted the big sums of public money it has given to schools, hospitals and other services.

In an end-of-term speech to the Parliamentary Labour Party, the Prime Minister said the Government would not be judged on the amounts of money that it had put into health and education but on the improvements it made to those services.

In a significant change of rhetoric from last week's spending review announcement, in which the emphasis was placed on the huge sums being granted to some services, Mr Blair said: "It is taxpayers' money. We must be certain that every pound we spend goes on the things that count — frontline services, better patient care, better educated children and better public transport."

Because the money had been so hard won, there was a duty to spend it wisely, he said. His remarks reflect concern in the leadership that the Government was perceived as trying to win too much credit from the size of the allocations rather than its insistence that they must be accompanied by reforms.

Although he praised Labour MPs for the part they had played in the Government's first year, he warned dissenters against thinking that they could take the extra spending without exercising financial prudence. "New Labour is about efficiency and fairness. The two go together. It is about prudent public

Philip Webster
on the Prime Minister's end-of-term pep talk to Labour MPs

finances and strong public services. One follows from the other. We cannot spend money on the public services that we have not earned."

It was because the Government had often taken controversial decisions that it had been able to find the money they needed for the country's priorities. "Any other way would lead to a broken economy and rising inflation that will damage all that we plan."

Later in the Commons Mr Blair faced warnings that last week's boost for health and education could be hit by higher than expected inflation.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, claimed that a 1 per cent increase in inflation would knock £5 billion off the Comprehensive Spending Review's budget for schools and hospitals.

William Hague, the Tory leader, claimed that Treasury figures for growth, on which the spending promises were based, were far more optimistic than independent forecasts.

Mr Blair insisted that the spending plans announced last week were "right" and

"prudent" and based on the Government's economic forecasts.

Earlier Mr Blair had told MPs that the challenge before them was to "keep the party and the Government working together". The party last year had been on a "steep learning curve" and now needed to work out how to campaign as the party in power, how to keep in touch with ordinary members and how to keep building the party so it met the concerns of communities.

Mr Blair's spokesman said the Prime Minister had emphasised a "third way" for Labour — not ignoring the party as the old Right had, not concentrating on cliques of activists as the hard Left had, but building a strong party engaged in dialogue with the Government.

Mr Blair said: "This partnership between party and Government is essential and it is where we must be different to previous Labour Governments. A strong party will sustain us in government."

The leftwinger Alice Mahon noted she was reported to have challenged Mr Blair over the activities of lobbyists accused in the "cash-for-access" affair.

Mr Blair was reported by aides as having told her: "We should deal with any problems that do come up, but we should not spend our entire time chasing after the media. We were elected to improve hospitals and schools, tackle crime and improve Britain's standing in the world and these are what we should concentrate on."



Tom Mitchell, a lorry driver, enjoying an "all-day breakfast", a dish that has become harder to find in recent years

'Greasy spoon' given fresh glint

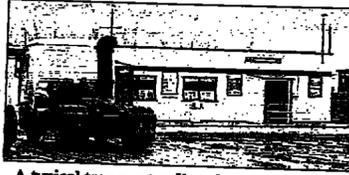
By Polly Newton
Political Reporter

JOHN PRESCOTT has delighted Britain's lorry drivers with a boost for the roadside "greasy spoon".

The Deputy Prime Minister has promised a package of measures to halt the recent sharp decline in the number of transport cafés, for long-distance drivers.

He includes ordering local councils to identify places where catering and washing facilities are inadequate and to favour building plans that take account of the drivers' needs.

Mr Prescott, who is Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the



A typical transport café and traditional fare. John Prescott is planning a revival

Regions, also plans to publish guidance for local authorities and developers on how to improve lorry parks.

In January a survey by the Road Haulage Association found that only about 100 privately owned cafés for lorry drivers were still in operation, compared with

more than 500 in the early 1980s. Members of the association complained that many had been replaced by larger service stations, which did not cater for lorry drivers and often made them

unwelcome. They reported that some did not even allow them to use the facilities

provided for car drivers. Yesterday Dan Hodges, spokesman for the association, said: "The great British greasy spoon is a national institution and there will be a few of our members raising a chirped song to the Deputy Prime Minister tonight."

provided for car drivers. Yesterday Dan Hodges, spokesman for the association, said: "The great British greasy spoon is a national institution and there will be a few of our members raising a chirped song to the Deputy Prime Minister tonight."

Ashdown may edge closer to Labour

By Philip Webster

PADDY ASHDOWN pledged yesterday to carry on as Liberal Democrat leader through the next election and beyond and made it clear that he was ready to extend his party's co-operation with the Government.

Marking the tenth anniversary of his election as leader, Mr Ashdown said that it would be a joke to suggest that he was ready to hand over to someone else at a time when the party was strong and politics was more interesting than it had been for 50 years.

Mr Ashdown's position as leader is stronger than it has ever been, and there are senior figures at the top of both Labour and Liberal Democrat parties who believe that he could be invited to take a place in the Government before the next election. Tony Blair is understood to be keener on an early move than many of his closest advisers would like.

In one of his strongest pleas for co-operation, Mr Ashdown said that while he was committed to the distinctiveness and independence of his party "there is no role for the Liberal Democrats as the 'wee frees' of British politics".

He added: "I promised at the last election that we would make a difference — and I am determined that we do. If that means working with others where it is sensible to do so, then that is what I intend to continue to do."

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: Treasury Questions; Northern Ireland Bill, committee; debate on duration of the M25; in the Lords: Scotland Bill, committee; Special Immigration Appeals Commission (Procedure) Bill; Conditional Fee Agreements Order; Food Protection (Emergency Prohibitions) (Paracetamol) Order.

Do we really need so many ministers?

BEFORE Tony Blair ends the suspense on his reshuffle, he should, first, consider whether he needs so many ministers. Reshuffle speculation usually takes the current total, and distribution, of ministerial posts for granted. But that is no longer true. Sir Richard Wilson, the Cabinet Secretary, has been discussing the allocation of ministers with his fellow permanent secretaries.

At present, there are 113 ministers and whips, of which 89 are in the Commons. A century ago, when Britain ruled large parts of the globe from Whitehall, there were a mere 33 ministers and whips in the Commons. Of course, government has vastly extended its scope this century with the expansion of the welfare state and ministers are busily involved in dealings with European institutions. But the load on ministers is very uneven. Some, particularly Secretaries of State, are overworked; others have time on their hands, though, as far as I know, no current minister is learning Classical Greek in his spare time as one Tory junior minister did a few years ago.

Most senior civil servants I know believe that they could easily dispense with at least one minister in their department and they are often willing to say whom. Officials in the DTI would no doubt nominate the hapless Nigel Griffiths. But there are quite a few others. The broader role of ministers is now changing. Some are, in effect, superior special

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

advisers with more explicit political clout. For instance, Lord Simon of Highbury, the former BP chairman, has not been very active as a parliamentarian. He has been performing a similar role within Whitehall on the single market and European issues as a minister that Norman Warner has on youth justice and crime issues as a special adviser to Jack Straw. Mr Warner was recently awarded a peerage

There is no long-term case for Scottish or Welsh Secretaries

and has taken up a new post. Advisers like Mr Warner and Ed Balls at the Treasury have had a far greater impact on policy than most ministers. Perhaps we need fewer ministers and more advisers in a cabinet system supporting Secretaries of State on Continental lines. But there is now a more specific reason for culling the ministerial payroll. The new review is because of the constitutional upheaval currently under way. Within just over a year many of the current functions of the Scottish and Welsh Offices will be devolved

to the new executives (even though they will probably be headed by the same people as now). Similarly, if the Northern Ireland parties do manage to set up a proper executive, they will in time take over a number of roles now performed by the Northern Ireland Office. These three departments have 12 ministers in the Commons, and two in the Lords.

There will still have to be some Scottish, Welsh, and Northern Ireland ministers. Some separate Scottish Bills will be considered at Westminster on issues not devolved to the Edinburgh parliament — for instance on some criminal justice issues covered by the separate legal system north of the border. All three departments will also need ministers to negotiate with the Treasury. But how many — and do each of the departments have to be represented in the Cabinet? There will probably be a Northern Ireland Secretary for the foreseeable future, but there is no long-term case for Scottish or Welsh Secretaries. So the number of ministers from the three departments could be cut to, say, five or six at most — saving eight or nine posts.

The bulk of any reconstruction will come next year, but in the meantime Mr Blair should consider losing a few posts elsewhere. Does the Culture, Media and Sport department really need four ministers? Don't bet on it. Mr Blair, and the Chief Whip, knows the lure of patronage.

PETER RIDDELL

Lords halt £2m car park plan

THE House of Lords yesterday shelved plans for a multi-million-pound refurbishment of its car park after peers argued that it would provoke fierce public criticism (Polly Newton writes).

They voted by 148 to 142 to send the scheme back to the administration and works sub-committee for further consideration, which will delay it by a year and could kill it.

Lord Cocks, a Labour former Chief Whip, said the £2.34 million improvement plan was inappropriate given the Government's announcement this week that it wanted to cut car use. He said that many people were looking for an excuse to denigrate the Lords. "I think we are sending them here a very big stick with which to beat ourselves."



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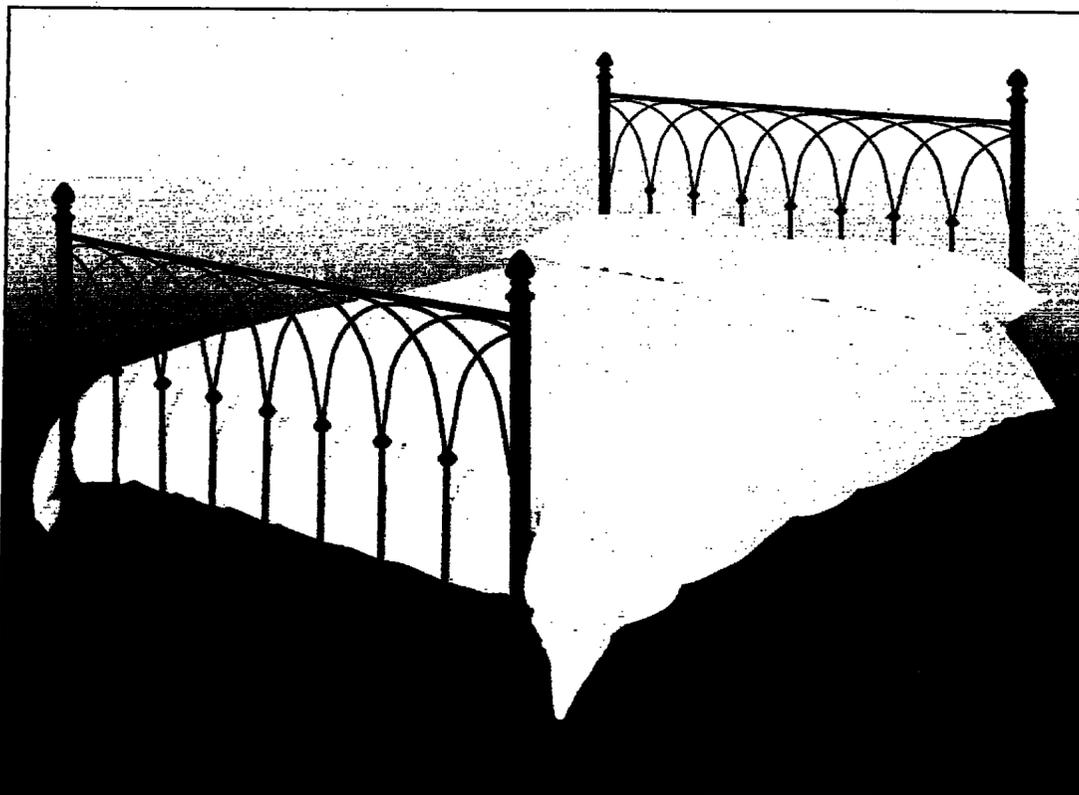
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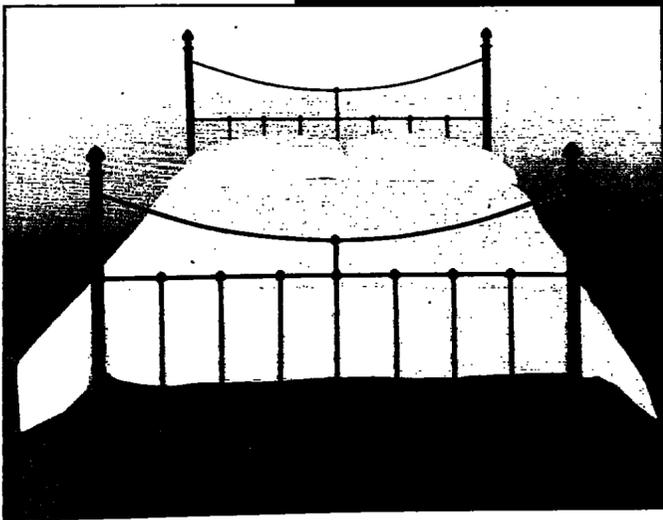
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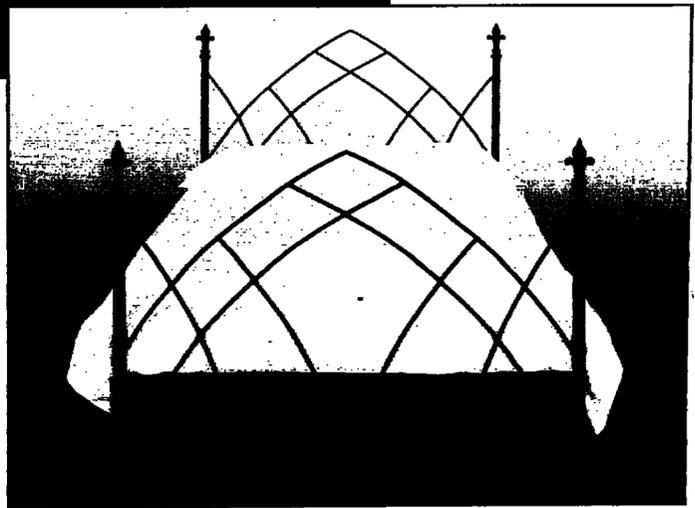
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Ban lifted on £2bn state aid to Air France

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

WITH the stroke of a legal pen yesterday, the European Commission reinstated £2 billion of French state subsidy to Air France less than a month after the European Court of Justice pronounced it illegal.

Neil Kinnock, the Transport Commissioner, said the manoeuvre was the best remedy to the judges' action because their quarrel had not been with the substance of the subsidy, but with two aspects of the Commission's reasoning.

These had been "reworked" in response to the judges' points. It would have been "absurd, foolish and legally irresponsible for us now to reverse our original view that the aid should be approved", Mr Kinnock said.

However, the near instant re-approval of the 1994 package for the French flag carrier was disputed by Sir Leon Brittan, the senior British commissioner, Martin Bangemann of Germany and Anita Gradin of Sweden. The three were outvoted by 13 other commissioners.

Sir Leon and his colleagues are aware that the legal manoeuvre is certain to fuel charges that the Commission is easily steamrollered by the French Government, which has won approval for huge aid to its industries over the past decade. It also offers some hope to Germany and other states that are fighting the efforts of Karel Van Miert, the Competition Commissioner, to curb their handouts to coalmining, shipbuilding and other failing industries. In another case yesterday, the Commission ordered

Paris to recover £24 million of aid it had granted illegally to a subsidiary of Cr dit Lyonnais, the state-owned bank.

In an example of the ill-defined balance of powers among the EU's institutions, the Brussels executive can cancel a judicial decision if it can argue that the issue is a technical one that can be remedied with fresh legal reasoning. No further approval is required from the court. The Commission action can be challenged by a third party, but that takes years.

The Air France case was brought in 1994 against the Commission by British Airways, British Midland, SAS and other airlines. Yesterday, the British airlines were left fuming. BA said it was surprised and disappointed.

"This is a lost opportunity for the Commission to take a firm stand on airline subsidies. The speed with which it has been rushed out so soon after the findings of the European Court is surprising," it said. BA believed that the judges' ruling required "rather more than simply rewriting" the Commission's original approval.

A British Midland spokesman said: "We are very disappointed with this decision as we believe that state aid is wrong in principle.

The Air France money is a grotesque subsidy... The court took four years to declare the payment illegal and now this has been overturned in three weeks by the Commission."

Leading article, page 23



Anatoli Vilkov, of the Russian Culture Ministry, displays two stolen paintings, each worth about £20,000, recovered after they were offered for auction in London in 1996. Police are investigating 2,500 similar thefts of paintings, icons, rare books and cultural treasures as a wave of crime has put much of Russia's priceless art heritage at risk (Michael Binyon writes).

Crime wave threatens Russian art heritage

In 1991. Old coins and archaeological finds also fetched high prices on the black market, he said. The Orthodox Church is a particular target. Hundreds of village churches have been plundered, with thieves threatening clergy and ransacking poorly guarded places of worship in search of icons, vessels, vestments and decorations. A spokesman for the Moscow Patriarchate said: "Recently a thief tried to rob a church in Moscow while a service was going on, and even got to the altar to steal censers before he was caught." The treasures are usually smuggled abroad to be sold to rich Western collectors. But so many icons have now left Russia that the Western market is saturated. Foreign connoisseurs are instead trying to buy paintings and classical Russian art from the last century, Mr Isayenko said.

Russia has recently begun a vigorous campaign to identify its stolen works, using courts and police channels to ensure their return. Any stolen work worth more than \$1,000 ( 600) is now routinely reported to Interpol. The recovery of the two £20,000 paintings, which was reported on Tuesday, was a modest victory. Mr Vilkov, head of the Culture Ministry's department for protection of cultural treasures, said the paintings had been stolen from a museum in 1992, and were spotted at Sotheby's and Christie's auctions in 1996. They had previously been sold at auction in Finland, but no one had realised they were stolen.

Anna Murdoch files for divorce

FROM REUTERS IN LOS ANGELES

ANNA MURDOCH, the wife of Rupert Murdoch, has filed for divorce, seeking maintenance from the News Corporation chairman, whose companies own dozens of newspapers and television stations, including The Times.

In her petition, dated July 5 but filed in Los Angeles Superior Court only on Tuesday, Mrs Murdoch cited "irreconcilable differences" for the breakdown of her 31-year marriage to the Australian-born businessman. Among his recent acquisitions is the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team.

Mr Murdoch, 67, met his wife when she was a trainee reporter at one of his newspapers, The Daily Mirror in Sydney. They married in April 1967 and have homes in the United States, Britain and Australia.

In April this year, Mr Murdoch's spokesman said that the couple were separating while seeking to work out their differences.

The New York Post, which is also owned by News Corp, announced the separation through Liz Smith, a syndicated gossip columnist, who wrote that the split was amicable and that Mrs Murdoch would remain on the board of the company.

In the divorce papers, Mrs Murdoch asked the court for spousal support, but said that the amount of the couple's joint assets had still to be determined.

"The petitioner is unaware of the full nature of the community and quasi-community assets and obligations... and will amend this petition after discovery or at trial," she stated in the papers that were submitted by Daniel Jaffe, her lawyer. Mr Jaffe declined comment on the petition.

In her column yesterday, Ms Smith said that both Mr and Mrs Murdoch "are now attempting to amicably negotiate a settlement on their properties and interests".



Anna Murdoch: asking court for maintenance

Gore urges Kiev to close Chernobyl

BY MICHAEL BINYON

AL GORE, the US Vice-President, began a two-day visit to Ukraine yesterday with a private warning that America will continue to withhold much of its huge aid package until the former Soviet republic does more to reform its state-controlled economy. He also urged speedier action to close down the remaining reactors at Chernobyl and will emphasise the message today with a visit to the crippled reactor, the first by a top US politician since the nuclear accident 12 years ago. Kiev is demanding \$758 million ( 462 million) to repair the crumbling sarcophagus covering the damaged reactor No 4, but so far has received only half that sum from abroad. It also insists on huge Western help as a condition for closing the remaining three reactors, which it says are still vital to its energy needs. Kiev accuses the Group of

Seven industrialised nations of dragging their feet in providing the promised funds. But the West has complained that Ukrainians are making no serious alternative plans and are using the issue as a way of extorting aid. Mr Gore went straight into private talks yesterday with President Kuchma on the tottering economy. The US is the largest foreign investor, pumping in about \$400 million of a total \$2.1 billion since independence in 1991. Kiev wants more investment, but businessmen complain that they are hampered by bureaucracy and a reluctance to dismantle state controls. So dissatisfied is Washington with the tardy progress of reform that it has threatened to withhold part of its annual \$225 million aid package. Ukraine is the third largest recipient of US aid and America is more engaged in its affairs than Western Europe.

Anna Murdoch: asking court for maintenance

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Tough guys of Dodge beat heatwave

Ian Brodie in 'Cowboy Capital' asks how Wyatt Earp endured the temperatures without air conditioning

IT WAS hot enough in Dodge City for Wyatt Earp to cast off his long black coat as he fought the bad guys.

But the actor who plays the legendary marshal in a mock High Noon shoot-out decided it would be unfair to Earp's memory to be such a wimp.

He kept the heavy serge coat on even though a sign over the bank up the street has recorded daily temperatures ranging from 40C to 45C (105F to 113F), making Dodge City one of the hottest places to endure the American heatwave.

"Earp had a lot of guts," said Allen Bailey as he fixed the marshal's star to his coat yesterday. "He did the tough and nasty work, breaking up gunfights in the bars. He would have kept his coat on."

Unlike Earp, though, Mr Bailey can duck into the air-conditioning of the Long Branch Bar, where he doubles as barman and entertainer, after he and the good guys despatch the bad ones.

The daily gunfight is put on for tourists visiting Dodge City — self-proclaimed "Cowboy Capital of the World" — at a copy of the original Front Street beside Boot Hill, where gunfighters who died with their boots on were buried.

The torrid heat has brought new respect for the pioneers who herded cattle and settled the Wild West 120 years ago without relief from air-conditioning or, since the freezing winters can be just as harsh, central heating.

Out here on the plains of Kansas people say they have



never known it to be so hot for so long — more than 38C for days on end. Some swear that the heat bounces off the baked earth. Roads that stretch to the horizon shimmer. When hot winds kick up, Dodge City feels like the Sahara.

Official "heat advisories" have been in effect for Dodge City on coping with the searing temperatures. Warnings and survival skills are relayed by radio, television and the Dodge City Daily Globe.

Townfolk are urged to keep an eye on young children and pets and to limit their outdoor exertions to midday. They are cautioned to drink plenty of liquids, but to avoid caffeine and alcohol, both of which can be dehydrating.

Sales have soared for bottled water and soft drinks. There have been no deaths in Dodge City, but victims of the heat exhaustion arrive regularly at Western Plains Hospital. Symptoms include headaches, vomiting and dizziness caused by a decreased blood flow from too much sweating.

One of those struck down was Jerry Hurst, a weathered old-timer who works outdoors mowing lawns. He said: "All

sudden my head was sweating and my body was shaking with chills. It was the start of heat stroke." Treatment requires resting in a cool place and drinking half a glass of water slowly every 15 minutes.

The elderly are worst affected by the heat. Tammy Moody, who works at the Boot Hill Museum, said: "My husband's parents are in their 70s and they just never go out when the heat is as bad as this. It's too exhausting for them." It is so hot in Dodge City that tourist hotels with indoor pools have the edge over those with outdoor ones. A droll sign said: "Swim in air-conditioned comfort."

Air conditioning has changed everything. Grandparents reminisce wryly about growing up without it. They would hang wet sheets over open windows and blow air through them with a fan. It helped, but not much.

There are still a few poor people in Dodge City, mostly Mexican immigrants, who cannot afford the \$800 (£500) or so for a window air conditioner. They get by with ceiling fans or water evaporators known as "swamp coolers".

Nowadays, most people spend minimal time in the heat as they skip between air-conditioned homes and jobs in their air-conditioned cars.

Perhaps the busiest man in town is Fred Stewart who runs an air-conditioning repair firm. He has a team of 15 at work 14 hours a day trying to cope with the rush of calls from people whose machines



The sign behind Salvador Rodriguez, a Houston carwash attendant, indicates how hot it has been in Texas

have broken under non-stop use. He said: "We try to get to them the same day or the next day so they don't have to sweat it out for too long." Heavy demands on air-conditioners have put a strain

on the local power company. Transformers have blown out from the heat. Organisers of Dodge City Days, an annual carnival and rodeo starting on Saturday, are worried that crowds will

stay at home. They have devised a novel solution for letting visitors cool off: a rain tent. Chairs will be set out in a marquee where a fine mist will be sprayed from 55-gallon water tanks. By Saturday,

though, there may be real rain. The forecast is for thunder and a cool front with temperatures no more than 35C. That is welcome news in Dodge City, but August is usually the hottest month.

Analysts chart the rise and fall of Viagra

By Tunku Varadarajan

DEMAND for Viagra, the pill that has brought succour to America's impotent, is gradually beginning to wilt, analysts report.

Although the drug is still on course to reap more than \$1 billion in sales in its first year for Pfizer, the pharmaceuticals multinational that put Viagra on the market on April 10, doctors are writing far fewer prescriptions than they did in early May, when the clamour for the pill was at a peak. Last week, 184,312 prescriptions were made out for Viagra across America, a substantial fall from the record of 303,424 set in the week ended on May 8.

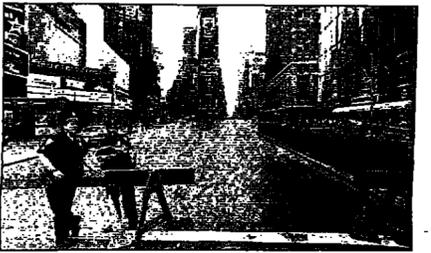
The appetite for the little blue pill is still robust, however. Analysts attribute the decline in sales to a natural falling off, suggesting that the early frenzy may have been due to the euphoria provoked by easy access to a drug that was touted in the media as a way to banish a bad sex life permanently.

Another reason why sales have declined may be Viagra's price. At \$10 (£6) a pill, it is not a drug to be popped lightly. Firms that provide private health insurance have taken the view that Viagra is too costly to be included in routine cover; and those that allow their policies to stretch to the drug for the needy insist that the pills be rationed to no more than two a week.

The companies are also fighting shy of Viagra for other reasons. About 30 users have died since the pill hit the market. Although no death has been attributed directly to Viagra and no doctor has ventured the opinion that the pill is bad for health, insurers are an ultra-cautious breed. Viagra, quite simply, is seen by many as a potential insurance problem.

Beijing: Chinese police have arrested a pharmacist for selling smuggled Viagra pills, a newspaper reported here. They were being sold for £22 each. Black markets for Viagra have sprung up throughout Asia where traditional cures for impotence abound. (AP)

Times Square scaffolding collapse stops the heart of New York



Times Square yesterday. It had "the eerie calm of Beirut after a bombing", said The New York Times

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A SPECTACULAR collapse of scaffolding, which slid off the side of a 48-storey building, has caused police to shut down large sections of Times Square, considered by many to be the heart of New York City. The closure led to traffic turmoil in mid-Manhattan yesterday, comparable to the kind of chaos that would ensue in London if Trafalgar Square or the Embankment were suddenly closed.

As the scaffolding broke away from its moorings on the side of the Condé Nast building on Broadway, a temporary lift also hurtled down, spraying

the streets below with tonnes of sharp metal. One steel girder flew into the roof of an adjacent hotel, piercing it as a witness said, "like a spear through a piece of cheese". An elderly woman in the room below, Thereza Felicio — who was photographed last year by Annie Liebowitz for a pictorial feature in The New York Times on Times Square life — died instantly from the impact.

The collapse happened without warning on Tuesday morning. City officials were quick to close off all areas within range of the teetering scaffolding. Many theatres were affected, including the Kit Kat Club, home to the musical Cabaret. The

New York Times, which led with the story, described the area after the collapse as showing "an eerie mix of chaos and calm". The streets, it reported, had "the strange quiet of Belfast or Beirut after a bombing".

A more demotic description was provided by a young man, Andrew Mullen, who fled the scene. He said: "It was like Godzilla coming. Everyone was scattered and I ran for my life."

The collapse was ironic: the Condé Nast building has often been touted as a symbol of the new Times Square, a hitherto sleazy quarter now given over to tourist shops, Disney arcades and fast-food restaurants. City officials

described the incident as "the most serious in more than a decade in the New York construction industry", but insisted that the contractors responsible for the scaffolding had a good safety record. The New York Times pointed out, however, that the company, Tishman Construction, has been cited twice for serious violations of the city's building code.

Yesterday, Gaston Silva, the city's buildings commissioner, launched an investigation. There is speculation that the scaffolding tower was not properly anchored to the building. Mr Silva said: "We're looking into whether the tower had the proper number of bolts at each joint."

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Rescuers incinerate rotting bodies

BY BRIAN WOODLEY IN VANIMO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BURIALS gave way to petrol-fuelled cremations on the spot yesterday as rotting bodies fell apart in the hands of rescue workers in the tropical heat of Sissano lagoon after Papua New Guinea's devastating tidal wave.

By now it is routine. Bodies are spotted, their locations marked and retrieval teams work out how best to reach them and burn them.

The twin spectres of hunger and disease threatened to wipe out the survivors as they began to rebuild their shattered lives amid the chaos.

Five days after a 33 ft wall of water swept the northern coast of West Sepik province, hospitals were crammed with the injured. No one can say how many lives were lost, but there can be little doubt that the scale of the tragedy has reached the heights feared from the beginning, with the dead numbered not in hundreds but thousands. It appears that the majority of the 8,000 to 10,000 villagers in this stretch of coastline may have died. A total of 1,500 bodies have been recovered so far.

One illustration of the magnitude of the forces that wiped out a cluster of villages last weekend came from reports yesterday that the seas

around Japan had risen by about 7½ in. Another came from reports that 30 bodies had been seen off Jayapura, an Indonesian coastal town far west of the disaster zone.

There was one heart-warming story of survival amid the disaster. A two-week-old girl lay gurgling happily yesterday after floating to safety with her mother in the crown of a coconut tree.

"It's now a matter of care and maintenance," Captain Mike Harris, an Australian Army spokesman, said. "This includes delivering aid and tents to the front line of the disaster area."

At Vanimo, the centre of the relief effort, a Royal Australian Air Force Caribou spear-headed the supply flights.

Rescuers were struggling just to provide food and shelter for the thousands of bewildered survivors who have been taken in by inland villages.

At Pou, which has given shelter to 1,300 survivors, Godfrey Baraka, the head man, said he had only three bags of rice to feed the newcomers until the next load of supplies arrived by helicopter.

□ Brian Woodley is on the staff of The Australian newspaper



A nun comforts a survivor from Arop. Only 183 of the town's 3,000 residents have been found. In Sissano, right, a team sets off to bury some of the many rotting bodies

Surgeons battle to hold back tide of infection

BY BRIAN WOODLEY

AN ELDERLY woman lies on an operating table in an open-sided tent. She has a deep wound running the length of her right leg below the knee. Two surgeons, John Crozier and Paul Taylor, dig out pieces of coral, sand and mud. They have to make a decision.

The woman has carried her wound untreated for three days. This means the gangrene has had two days to develop. Martine organisms are the worst for gangrene and her leg has turned an ugly greenish-white.

She has lost everyone in the West Sepik disaster, the sole survivor of her extended family. "Who's going to look after an old lady without a leg?" said Lieutenant-Colonel Crozier, 40, who is with the Australian First Parachute Surgical Team. "She can't go on like that. We have to save her leg."

Dr Taylor, 30, commander of the unit operating the tent hospital just inland from the beach at Vanimo on the northwest coast of Papua New Guinea, said: "I think she's got no more than a 50-50 chance. I'll look at her

every day. In 48 hours it will be decision time for her. We'll have to decide then whether to take the leg off."

The two men, veterans of relief work in Rwanda, have been working round the clock for 72 hours, snatching a shower here, a few hours of sleep there, making decisions like this all the time. The steady flow of new patients has eased, but the relentless onslaught of tropical infections continues to keep them hard at work.

They arrived on Monday morning and stepped off the Hercules to be confronted with five patients who would have died within a few hours had they not received instant and expert attention. In one case, a woman had aborted a foetus. Her placenta was stuck and her lower calf was torn off. "She was at death's door," Colonel Crozier said.

Since the first hours, the hospital has lost three patients but saved dozens. The pace was too hectic to keep proper records on the first day, but Australian Army and Air Force doctors believe they treated about 30 people before they began counting. Since then they have treated 174 people and performed 42

surgical operations. As the elderly woman is carried out for rest and recuperation, a young boy with gaping head and arm wounds, both severely infected, is placed on the table.

Dr Taylor swabs a wound almost as wide as the 10-year-old's hunger-thin arm and says: "This patient was being managed by Vanimo hospital. But they haven't got to the bottom of all the infection. The only way to do that is to cut it out."

The hospital regimen is dictated by the sun and stars. Aircraft cannot land after dark, so the flow of incoming patients usually will cease for the night. But that does not mean Dr Taylor can take a break. Rather, it gives him an opportunity to treat the lesser emergencies.

"I came back after a shower last night to find another five who would have died without immediate operations," he said. "So we're back into it. We're flat out." He and Colonel Crozier relish the work and the supporting staff are in awe of them. "They're legends," one said. "Hell, they're even bigger legends than they think they are."

PATRICK HAMILTON / REUTERS



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De Klerk 'knew ministers were involved in violence'

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

EVIDENCE submitted under oath by F.W. de Klerk, the former President of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, was challenged yesterday by one of his former ministers who said Mr de Klerk was aware of illegal acts committed in defence of white minority rule.

At a hearing in Pretoria, Adriaan Vlok, the former Law and Order Minister, said he had told Mr de Klerk and other members of his Cabinet in 1993 that he had taken part in the late 1980s in the bombings of offices and cinemas, acts for which he is now seeking amnesty. Mr Vlok said he again discussed his

participation in the bombings with Mr de Klerk in 1996 before the former President made a submission to the commission on behalf of the National Party.

Mr de Klerk had known about his intention to apply for amnesty, he said, but had not asked for any details of the incidents. Mr de Klerk yesterday brushed aside the implication that he may have been untruthful in telling the commission that he was not aware of any illegal actions committed by his ministers.

The evidence by Mr Vlok, who said on Tuesday that he was ordered to bomb an anti-apartheid church office by

P.W. Botha, Mr de Klerk's predecessor as President, is some of the most significant heard by the commission. It goes to the heart of one of the central issues raised by the exercise: the extent to which apartheid leaders were aware of illegal acts carried out by their ministers and policemen.

It is an offence to lie to the commission, but it was not clear last night whether Mr de Klerk will face further action. The commission is winding up its operations.

Johann van der Merwe, the former police commissioner, also told the commission that Mr de Klerk knew of illegal acts carried out by ministers.

HIV 'turns vaccines into killers'

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

AN HIV-positive Zimbabwean girl, 8, who died last month of a form of measles, has provided the first evidence that the Aids virus can turn a vaccine injection into a fatal version of the disease it is meant to suppress.

Wendy Maphosa, from Bulawayo, probably was infected with HIV in the womb. She developed symptoms of measles encephalitis soon after being vaccinated early last month, one of 4.7 million Zimbabwean children who are covered by a national immunisation campaign.

John Clements, the director of the World Health Organisation's immunisation programme, said Wendy's was probably the first known case of a vaccine that would cause a mild infection in a healthy person triggering a lethal form of the disease in a person infected with HIV. The Harare office of the WHO said the case has "potential international significance".

But Timothy Stamps, Zimbabwe's Minister of Health, said Wendy had a record of chronic illness and had been treated over the past two years for tuberculosis, one of the most common illnesses associated with Aids here. "This child's immune system was severely compromised and the prospects of her survival were very slim, even without the measles," Dr Stamps said.

WHO-supervised tests are to be undertaken to establish if another HIV-infected child's death last month was triggered by the vaccine. The WHO has urged the authorities to continue the anti-measles campaign.

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Hussein cancer alarms Israel

Peacemaker King faces chemotherapy treatment in US for suspected lymphoma, Christopher Walker writes

ANXIETY about the health of King Hussein swept through the Middle East yesterday amid fears that his incapacity to rule after 45 years on the Jordanian throne could trigger regional instability.

The news that the monarch may have lymphoma and could begin chemotherapy at the Mayo Clinic in America next week, coincided with an announcement that emergency talks between Israel and the Palestinian Authority to try to rescue their 1993 peace accord had ended in failure.

‘The stability of Jordan could be undermined by internal feuds over the succession’

respecting both Arabs and Jews, but also the fears that his death or inability to rule could herald civil unrest in the Hashemite Kingdom, where 65 per cent of the subjects are of Palestinian origin.

The King is widely acknowledged as being the moving force behind Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel, bitterly opposed by many of his subjects.

The Crown Prince, who would be the only Arab ruler to have good command of Hebrew, which he studied at Oxford, was named as the successor by royal decree in 1965, ahead of his elder brother Prince Muhammad.

King Hussein has 11 children by four wives. His eldest son, Prince Abdullah, was ruled out because his mother Princess Muna (née Antoinette Gardiner) was English and only a convert to Islam.



King Hussein at prayer. Doctors at America's Mayo Clinic fear he has lymphoma

The King informed his subjects that doctors at the Mayo Clinic, where he was admitted on July 14 after suffering from feverish spells and cold sweats, were awaiting the results of full tests done last Friday.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Four firefighters die in Greek forest blaze

A fast-moving wall of fire scorched the edge of Athens yesterday, killing four Greek firefighters and sending towering plumes of smoke over the city from a blackened mountainside (Our Foreign Staff writes). The blaze, which appeared to have started in a pine forest on the Imitros mountain east of the city, was fanned by winds that reached almost 50mph.

Havel names Government

Prague: President Havel of the Czech Republic appointed the first left-wing Government since the collapse of Communist rule eight years ago. The only non-Social Democrat among the 18 ministers is Otakar Motek, the Justice Minister, who is unaffiliated.

‘Offensive’ Bossi sentenced

Rome: Umberto Bossi, head of the Northern League, the secessionist movement in northern Italy, received a seven-month suspended jail sentence in Milan for resistance to authority and offensive behaviour.

Ban on recruiting servants

Dhaka: Bangladesh has decided to impose a total ban on recruitment of its women as housemaids and nurses by foreign countries, officials said. A partial ban was already in existence.

Librarian's war on Islam

Paris: A librarian who waged a crusade against Islam by secretly removing books about Muslims and the Arab world from the shelves of his branch near the Place de la Bastille has been suspended for two years without pay, city officials said.

Marcus Welby actor dies

Los Angeles: Robert Young, right, the actor best known for his leading roles in the long-running television dramas *Marcus Welby, M.D.*, and *Father Knows Best*, died on Tuesday night, according to a statement issued by his publicist.



Khatami defeats hardliners in battle over minister



Musavi-Lari backs liberal reforms

Nicosia: President Khatami won a battle of wills with his hardline foes yesterday when parliament approved his choice for the post of Interior Minister (Michael Theodorou writes).

liament, they were reluctant to return a vote of no-confidence that would have angered millions of Iranians who put Mr Khatami in power.

peached by parliament last month. "Political development means encouraging the participation of the people in deciding their own fate," he said.

the conservative-led judiciary delivers its verdict in the corruption trial of Gholamhossein Karbaschi, the popular Mayor of Tehran and an ally of Mr Khatami.

GOLDEN GIRL

Life in Lahore has not been dull for Imran Khan's wife. Now she has turned fashion designer. What *Jemima* did next. This weekend in *Style*

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Why just half a liver can save your life

MOST SMOKERS, once they develop cancer of the lung or throat, give up cigarettes. However, many drinkers, even if they have needed a liver transplant because of alcoholic cirrhosis, continue to drink.

A recent survey in the journal *Gut* showed that about half still enjoyed a tippie and about 12 per cent drank to excess. There are two ways of looking at these figures. Disciplinary are appalled that so many patients hadn't learnt their lesson, the more realistic, or perhaps kinder, were delighted that 88 per cent behaved sensibly.

Nonetheless, whether a strict disciplinarian, or a softy, livers are in very short supply, too short to allow 12 per cent of those available for transplant to be wasted. In future anyone who has a liver transplant will have to sign the pledge. While the waiting list for livers lengthens, with demand rising by 10 per cent a year, there has been a fall in the number of livers available since 1966. In the past two years the waiting list has increased by 30 per cent.

In liver transplants, the donor liver is often obtained from someone who has suffered a sudden death, often from an accident or a stroke, which has left them "brain dead". In small infants, a few transplants using part of the liver of a relative have been carried out and in 1997 four such transplants were recorded in Britain.

In Japan, which does not accept the concept of brain death, suitable livers for transplant are not available. However, pioneering work by Professor Kawasaki, at Shinsu University, has been successful in transplanting in adults the left lobe of the liver donated by a relative. Some 700 cases have been operated



Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on the liver; asthma; vegetarians; the perils of exercising; holiday diarrhoea

a few months if a transplant was not available.

In many parts of the world cirrhosis is more likely to be the result of earlier hepatitis, or other diseases, than alcohol. The surgical team was led by Mr K. C. Tan who had previously worked in London with Professor Williams when developing the children's transplant programme. Mr Tan is now operating at the National University Hospital in Singapore. The patient was flown there for the surgery.

The businessman has six sons. Professor Williams interviewed them all, explained that donating part of a liver was not like giving a pint of blood and it did have its risks. However, such was the love of the sons for their father that all six volunteered their left lobe without a moment's hesitation. Fortunately the volunteer is doing well and making an uninterrupted recovery. Mr Tan met unexpected complications during the operation but the patient is now recuperating.

The programme at the Cromwell Hospital will initially be confined to suitable patients of blood group O with end-stage liver disease who require transplantation. The blood group O is particularly significant because they have the longest waiting list for liver donors. If the scarcity of livers increases and the waiting list for blood group A increases, it will be extended to include these patients as well, Professor Williams said this week.

"This unit in London is the first one in the Western world. The liver transplant operation using part of the liver of a live relative not only represents a great advance in transplantation techniques, but also brings new hope to many of those who are currently on the waiting list for a donor organ."

on and about 90 per cent have survived; previously it had been thought that the left lobe would be too small to keep the patient alive while it was growing to the size of the liver which had been lost. This takes about six weeks whereas the donor's liver is back to its old size within a month. The risk of long-term complications is very small.

In February this year, Professor Roger Williams, the director of the Institute of Hepatology at University College, London, was inspired by the exciting work described by Professor Kawasaki at a conference. When Professor Williams returned to London he set up a living related liver transplantation unit programme at the Cromwell Hospital. Professor Williams decided to use the left lobe of the liver as was being recommended by Professor Kawasaki, rather than a right lobe which has been used in Hong Kong.

The problem with using the right lobe is that the risk to the donor is much greater and therefore the operation poses a more difficult ethical question.

The unit's first patient, a 59-year-old businessman from abroad, had his operation on Friday, July 10. This patient had severe cirrhosis and end-stage liver failure from which he was expected to die within



VEGETARIAN SOCIETY

Does it make sense to give up meat?

AFTER the BSE crisis, sales of books on vegetarian cooking increased by 300 per cent. In the unlikely event that all these people will renounce their chops and steaks for bean shoots, tofu and veggieburgers, will their health be improved — or will they suffer abdominal pain and wind? In *Hospital Medicine*, Professor Edzard Ernst has reviewed the pros and cons of vegetarianism.

Inevitably, a vegetarian's diet is richer in fibre and antioxidants, including the carotenoids, flavonoids and vitamins. Some people like to take flavonoids with their red wine, but even they admit that an increase in dark green and other brightly coloured vegetables, ranging from spinach and broccoli to peppers and tomatoes, are also good sources. Antioxidants reduce cardiovascular disease, and the more rigorous the vegetarian diet, the less the risk of atherogenic disease. Atheroma is the fatty substance that blocks the arteries leading to the heart, brain and other essential organs.

The antioxidants, whether vitamins, flavonoids or carotenoids are probably protective against cancer. Cooked tomatoes, for instance, guard against prostatic cancer, and there is some discernible evidence that antioxidants may inhibit lung cancer. Fibre protects against such bowel diseases as appendicitis and diverticular disease but produces wind and exacerbates some forms of irritable bowel syndrome.

Vegetarians, it seems, do not have less bowel cancer than modest meat-eaters, and a recent conference at the Royal College of Physicians was told that white meat was protective against colorectal cancer.

Vegetarians may suffer from nutritional deficiencies, with low blood protein levels and be short of many of the vitamins of the B group, zinc and sodium.

Sexy and healthy? A melon used to promote an image of vegetarians as better lovers than meat-eaters

A drama of sympathy



Paul Keegan
on Tom Paulin's *Hazlitt*
Adrian Lyttelton
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Punishment for cyclists

THE comparatively stoical reader of *The Times* who has taken this column's advice over the years and has eschewed vigorous exercise, while being careful to take half-an-hour's brisk walk a day, always feels slightly superior to hear of yet another athlete suffering for their principles.

However, even the laziest never thought that some forms of exercise beloved by fitness fanatics could actually render them impotent.

Most of us have heard that racing cyclists have troubles of this sort; a bicycle ride reduces penile blood supply by 66 per cent. However, it has taken Dr Erwin Goldstein of Dallas, Texas — an expert on these matters — to demonstrate that those people who sit on an exercise bicycle and pedal furiously for so many miles a day are damaging their penile arteries by compressing them against the pelvic bones.

Dr Goldstein quotes a 55-year-old patient who, after his heart attack, "bicycled" 50,000 miles in seven years: his heart was strong but his penis was limp. Where the penile artery had been compressed against the pubic bone by the saddle, it was irretrievably scarred and damaged.

Asthma: the right dose

BETWEEN 1979 and 1993 the number of asthma attacks in pre-school children increased fivefold, in children of school age fourfold, and in adults threefold. It is estimated that 3.4 million people in the UK now have asthma and nearly 90,000 are admitted to hospital with an attack each year.

Asthma is the result of inflammation of the air passages; during an asthma attack some irritant causes an increase in the inflammation, which leads to spasm in the muscle and laboured breathing.

There is discussion about the possible causes of changes in the incidence of asthma and a distinction has to be made between any increase in the number of people who have the disease and an increase in the number of attacks from which they suffer. There is no doubt that domestic and urban pollution, including car exhaust fumes, increase attacks but they may not be responsible for the greater number of sufferers. Surprisingly, asthma is as common in the country as it is in towns but town dwellers have more attacks. The increase is also blamed on indoor allergens, house mites and dander, the shed skin scales from humans

and household pets that are concentrated in carpeted centrally-heated rooms and nurtured in duvet-covered beds.

This week *The New Scientist* reported interest in the theory that too aseptic an upbringing, together with protection against many childhood diseases, may upset the immune balance and encourage allergic complaints.

Arguably one of the most useful advances in asthma care over the last 18 months has been the introduction of a new metered-dose inhaler, by Norton Healthcare. The old-fashioned inhaler involved a

degree of co-ordination which is only mastered by 25 per cent of people with asthma. The patient needs to press the top of the inhaler downwards at the same time as they inhale. Otherwise they fail to receive an adequate dose of the medication.

Norton Healthcare's inhaler, the Easi-Breathe, won the Prince of Wales Award for Innovation in 1997 and has been short-listed for this year's Royal Academy of Engineering MacRobert Award.

All the patient has to do is to put his or her lips around the mouthpiece and breathe in.



Only 25 per cent of asthma sufferers can use an inhaler

and a metered dose of the anti-asthmatic drug is automatically delivered. Previously 75 per cent of patients were inadequately treated, now there is no reason why everyone shouldn't get the full dose. The device is being modified to also deliver dry powder as well as an aerosol. It is now being used by several of the larger pharmaceutical companies.

Zeneca has also been addressing the problem and how to encourage patients to comply fully with its prescribed treatment, especially those who find it difficult to follow instructions with inhaled drugs.

Zeneca has introduced Accolate, a new tablet that is a non-steroidal alternative to inhaled steroid medication in mild to moderate asthma. Accolate is one of a new class of asthma controllers — leukotriene receptor antagonists (LTRAs). The tablets are taken twice a day and within two hours there is a reduction in the inflammation and obstruction in the patient's airways. It is reputedly successful when the difficulties in breathing have been induced by environmental triggers whether allergens, exercise or climate changes.

Bug that can wreck your summer holiday

MOST sophisticated holidaymakers and business travellers are now aware that travellers' diarrhoea is nothing to do with a change in the water supply, tiredness created by the journey or exposure to unaccustomed sun. They know that the diarrhoea is the result of the fruit-picker not washing his hands before he or she gathered the grapes, or the chef or waiter sticking a dirty finger into the fruit salad. Travellers' diarrhoea is in fact caused by alien *E. coli*, the common organism which lives in the guts of all mammals.

Travellers are not the only mammals to suffer when confronted by new strains of *E. coli* — so do piglets. Scientists from the Department of Biochemistry at Imperial College of Science in London have written in the journal *Gut* about an enzyme, bromelain, found in pineapples which offered 50 per cent of the piglets protection against *E. coli* infections. The disappointment for holiday makers is that a large glass of pineapple juice won't guard against the waiter's dirty hands — the enzyme is in the pineapple stem. Previous work has shown that bromelain may also neutralise some of the toxins produced by bacteria, causing cholera.

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Are you flying on a wing and a prayer?

Corrosion in ageing aircraft is fuelling safety fears. Jon Ashworth reports

For months, or possibly even years, a British Airways 747 has been flying the airwaves of the Atlantic with corrosion spreading through one of its wings like an invisible cancer. The flaw went unnoticed despite regular detailed inspections by BA engineers. It finally came to light on May 26, when a disbelieving maintenance crew discovered that a section of a spar in the jumbo's left wing had been eaten away. For BA, which puts safety before everything else, it raised all manner of urgent questions.

The report on the incident, filed with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), makes disturbing reading. It contains a reference to "significant corrosion" to a spar support on the aircraft's left wing. Corrosion had eaten through 100 per cent of the spar — even if the area was small in relation to the rest of the aircraft. Chillingly, the CAA observes that the "degree of corrosion indicates that previous mandatory inspections may have been inadequate".

The CAA has ordered urgent inspections to the BA fleet, but stopped short of grounding them. Fifteen BA 747s are involved, flying between London and New York, Washington, Chicago, Philadelphia, Toronto and Montreal. The routes are among BA's most profitable. For now, the aircraft remain in service.

Coming hard on the heels of a wave of scares involving older aircraft, holiday-makers and businessmen have every reason to feel a little nervous. The manner in which a 747 wing shimmies and shakes as it rides the air currents is disconcerting at the best of times. That it might be

rusting like a piece of old scrap is too ghastly to contemplate.

Just weeks ago, a BA Concorde was forced to turn back to Heshrow after a wing panel fell off. In May, BA temporarily grounded eight of its 737s, the world's bestselling commercial jet, amid fears about the wiring in older models. Evidence of electrical arcing had been found near fuel lines in a Continental Airlines 737.

Faulty wiring is considered the most likely cause of the crash, in 1996, of TWA Flight 800, en route from New York to Paris, in which an ageing jumbo blew up and crashed into the sea off Long Island. Conspiracy theorists blame a navy missile, but a spark in the flame-filled central fuel tank is the more plausible explanation.

Wings don't simply fall off aircraft as a rule, but history is littered with alarming precedents. In 1988, a 20-year-old Aloha Airlines 737 limped to an emergency landing in Hawaii after the top third of its fuselage blew off in mid-flight. The aluminium peeled back like a banana skin, leaving terrified passengers experiencing unexpectedly panoramic views of the Pacific far below. A stewardess was sucked to her death, and many of those on board suffered lacerations.

One passenger said later: "There was a big bang, and everybody looked up and we were looking at blue sky." The incident was blamed on years of exposure to salt water air particles.

A few weeks later, an Eastern Airlines



This Aloha Airlines 737 managed to make an emergency landing

727 of similar vintage made an emergency landing in West Virginia after a crack 18 inches long and eight inches wide opened up in the fuselage near the tail. The aircraft had recently undergone an intensive inspection. With images of the Aloha jet constantly flashing up on American television, the incident did little to allay fears about the safety of older jets.

Two years before Aloha, in August 1985, a Japan Airlines 747 carrying 524 passengers crashed into a mountain northwest of Tokyo, in one of the worst single accidents in commercial aviation history. The precise cause remains un-

clear to this day, but part of the tailfin was recovered from Sagami Bay, 90 miles from the crash site. The consensus is that metal fatigue in the rear pressure bulkhead triggered an explosive decompression which took most of the tail with it, making the aircraft unpotable. Those on board had time to write farewell messages to their families before the plane plunged into a wooded slope.

Fears about corrosion in aircraft were raised as far back as 1971, when a British European Airways Vanguard crashed in Belgium. Corrosion from condensation and leakages from the aft lavatories

caused the rear bulkhead to fail, scattering the tail assembly across the sky. Eighteen years earlier, the reign of the de Havilland Comet was cut dramatically short by a series of crashes while the aircraft was climbing to their cruising altitude. Metal fatigue was blamed. The original Comet, Yoke Peter, went down off Elba with the loss of all 35 passengers and crew.

No one is suggesting that wings or engines are about to start dropping off BA jumbos, but corrosion in an airframe is a serious matter. A BA insider described the incident as "a hit out of the blue" and "bad, bad, big, big news". He said: "The 747-100s are 1971 vintage, but in many ways they are the most reliable 747s in the fleet. They are due to go quite soon, but this is not good news, as many would have gone into the freighter market as a good price. They were thought to be in near perfect structural condition."

Boeing, which assembles the jumbos in Everett, north of Seattle, says the wing corrosion was a "level 2" incident, requiring repair but not posing an immediate safety concern. Such things are not uncommon in older 747s. A BA spokesman said: "This isn't a major safety issue, but we take it extremely seriously, and we've accelerated our inspections." The aircraft at the centre of the scare — registration G-AWNF — has been patched up and is flying again, although BA refuses to disclose exactly where.

Boeing engineers have struggled over the years to convince the flying public

that corrosion and metal fatigue are not one and the same. Leakage from hazardous cargo such as hydrochloric acid can leave an aircraft hold resembling a scene from *Alien*. In one case, the engineers detecting advanced corrosion in an area below an aircraft galley traced the cause to the little salt packets which come with airline meals. A bunch had fallen into the belly. The paper gradually disintegrated, releasing the corrosive salt.

On another occasion, a Boeing investigator put an aircraft fuselage skin to the test by pressing against it with a pencil. The pencil went right through. Think about that: next time you're cruising along at 35,000 ft.

It all makes frightening reading, but aircraft are unlikely to start dropping out of the skies in droves. Older planes are becoming more expensive to maintain, and carriers such as BA are phasing them out more rapidly. There are 111 747-100s flying today, compared with about 300 a decade ago. Many end up mothballed in the Arizona desert. All will eventually go the way of the great liners and be broken up for scrap.

As for BA, most of its long-haul 747 passengers are more likely to travel on the modern 400 model with its upswep wings, than the older blunt-edged model. BA has 44 747-400s (average age 5.1 years) compared with the 15 older aircraft.

And nervous flyers should not lose faith. The chances of dying in an air crash are one in 20,000 — the same as being hit by an asteroid.

Exposing the cheek of the chic

A television mishap has left the design police smarting. Lucy Hawking reports

So someone finally did it. Second to a replay of a few fluffed penalties, it was the sight the nation most wanted to see. Someone with the courage to show what they really felt when the television crew of *Changing Rooms* worked its peculiar magic on their home — by bursting into

side of our houses should look. Obviously, we need help.

And there is no shortage of advice. A rash of television designers have erupted, cheerfully egging their viewers on to radical change, both in the house and garden. *Home Front*, a daytime programme watched by more than five mil-

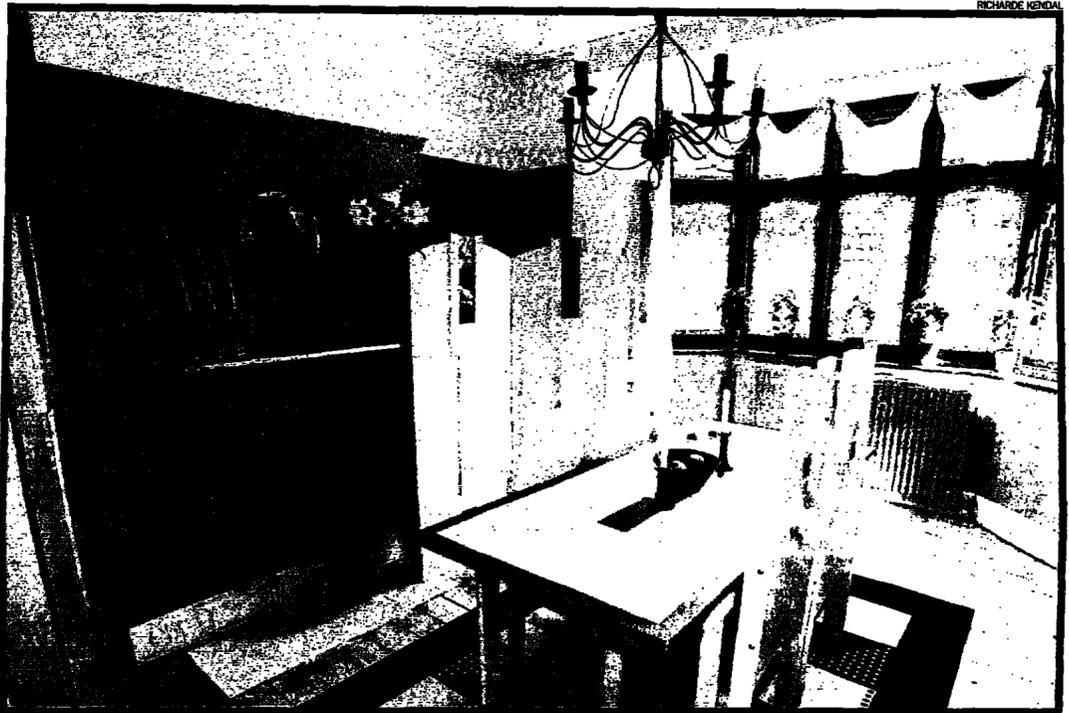
lion of purple velvet. Even gardens are no longer safe, with *Ground Force*, a horticultural version of *Real Rooms* likely to revamp surreptitiously your shrubbery and expect you to be pleased with the result.

For the enthusiast, there is no dearth of reading matter either. With magazines from the chi-chi *Elle Decor* to the more down-to-earth *House Beautiful*, filling the newsagents' shelves, every nook of your house, from DIY to fantasy interior, is catered for.

Design tyranny has even usurped that other daytime television favourite, cookery. Time to chuck out that hot wok and hop down to Ikea instead — apparently the home-stencilled pattern on your dinner plates is now more important than what you put on them.

Your home used to be your castle. Now, if you had a castle, doubtless some chirpy designer would redo it as a Tuscan cottage. Or your semi-detached would be given a baronial look and your country house made to look like a Manhattan loft. It is all so inappropriate to the actual place and real purpose of the house or flat. It is superimposing a style on somewhere that simply does not want to have it. It is, in short, designer bullying.

The problem with interior designers and their cavalier re-



A change for the better? This is what happened when the design gurus of TV's *Changing Rooms* got to grips with a typical suburban front room

ordering of people's houses lies in their inability to differentiate between a great look and a great place to live. Everyone knows that catwalk designs are just that — they are not intended to be seen in Sainsbury's. They are a fantasy.

The same is true of interior design: what works in a photo shoot looks mad in the average semi.

Bizarre designs used to be the preserve of the seriously rich and the very eccentric, the sort of people who would be disappointed if they didn't have leopard-skin walls. Now, thanks to the proliferation of design magazines and programmes constantly reiterating that we could have the home to die for, we all feel we must be quirky and innovative or somehow we will be inferior. We all have to live in homes that *Helllo!* could drop into at a moment's notice.

The cult of the photogenic home reaches its zenith in minimalist ideal. Seen in the pages of a magazine, those clean

lines and clear spaces look so appealing and peaceful in a tidy room, tidy mind sort of way. But the reality of such an existence would be quite the opposite: an endless round of cleaning and Hoovering and throwing away the flotsam and jetsam of life which accumulates effortlessly but continuously. While many people would relish the notion of a less cluttered existence, they lack the discipline or simply the opportunity to lead one.

Yet even in real life, there are people such as the architect John Pawson, who is famous for his reduced attitude to necessity. One critic said of his houses "You don't wear shoes and you whisper."

It can be quite hard to find things, however, in a minimalist house — Pawson has been known not to answer the phone as he had cleared it into a drawer and then could not locate the ringing.

The other major problem with design zealotry is the ex-

cess. A tin of Dulux ordinary white matt emulsion paint costs £2.97. A tin of the same in the classier Farrow and Ball range leaps up to £18.95. For £31.45 you could have the same quantity, colour and finish of Fired Earth paint.

And paint alone is hardly enough. Walls are no longer really walls unless they have been dragged, stippled or ragged and rolled. Or colour-washed, a process as time-consuming as it is costly, needing two coats of paint and two coats of varnish for each application.

This is all very well if you are sure you will still like your painstakingly applied effects next year or the year after that, but fashions in interiors are becoming as fickle as those of clothing.

If not, adopting the same cynical attitude to the fads of interior design as most people show to the excesses of the catwalk might be advisable. Just because it looks good on them doesn't mean you have to rush out and buy.



Paint it puce: show host Carol Smillie

Millions of couch-decorators will cheer Susan Dukes when the episode showing her appalled reaction to her new-look dining room is broadcast next week. Having asked for a traditional look for her extension, she got a Cook-Thief-Wife-Lover Baroque nightmare in violent cherry with twiddly bits stuck on. Framed portraits of chip-shop owner Susan and her husband depict her as Neil Gwynn with spouse Russell as Pepys.

Susan Dukes fell foul of a fast-spreading trend, that of design tyranny, a slavish acceptance of brass and garish interior decor as a stylish way to kit out your house. Fed and nurtured by an explosion of programmes and magazines, all prescribing not so much ways of life as looks of life, design tyranny demands we plaster lime green, tangerine or violet blue in spots once reserved for barley white. No longer, it seems, can we be trusted to decide for ourselves how the in-

terior of our houses should look. Obviously, we need help. And there is no shortage of advice. A rash of television designers have erupted, cheerfully egging their viewers on to radical change, both in the house and garden. *Home Front*, a daytime programme watched by more than five mil-

lion people. is *Blue Peter* for adults gone mad *Change That* turns perfectly good objects into useless but brightly coloured ones; and *Real Rooms* employs a SWAT team of handy-men to swarm around your house, brandishing swathes of fabric until they have turned it into an Arabian Nights confec-

Amended Index Linked Account Rates

Effective from 23rd July 1998. Accounts no longer open to new investors.

	Index Linked Account			
	Minimum Investment	Gross*	Gross CAR**	Net†
1st Issue Quarterly	£1,000	6.70%	6.87%	5.36%
2nd Issue Yearly	£1,000	6.70%	-	5.36%
2nd Issue Monthly	£1,000	6.50%	6.70%	5.20%
3rd Issue Yearly	£1,000	6.70%	-	5.36%
3rd Issue Monthly	£1,000	6.50%	6.70%	5.20%
4th Issue Yearly	£1,000	6.20%	-	4.95%
4th Issue Monthly	£1,000	6.03%	6.20%	4.82%

*Without UK Income tax deducted. **Annual returns if monthly interest payments remain in the account. †Annual returns after income tax at 20%. Interest will be payable net of the applicable rate of income tax (which may be reclaimed by non-taxpayers) or gross, subject to the required registration. CAR and net rates are illustrative only and have been rounded to two decimal places. Rates may vary but are correct at the time of going to press. Details of interest rates paid on other accounts are available from any Britannia branch.

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
The Queen held an investiture at Buckingham Palace this morning.
The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had a audience of Her Majesty this evening.
The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon visited the British Waterways Docklands developments on the Isle of Dogs and the Limehouse Basin, London.



Bruce Forsyth, and his wife Wilhelmina, with the insignia of his award, after he had been appointed OBE by the Queen at an investiture at Buckingham Palace yesterday

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. Breckenridge and Miss S. Tufts
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs John Breckenridge, of Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, and Suzanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bradley Tufts, of Lewisham, Pennsylvania, USA.
Mr A.W. Burns and Miss L.H. Hamilton
The engagement is announced between Alastair William, younger son of Mr and Mrs D.W. Burns, of Perry Green, Mitch Hadham, Hertfordshire, and Louise Henrietta, second daughter of Mr and Mrs J.E.C. Hamilton, of Weston Ennsickery, County Wicklow, Ireland.

Memorial service

Mr J.R. Bickford Smith
Mr J.R. Bickford Smith, Chairman of the Trustees of the Bickford Smith Memorial Trust, will hold a memorial service for his late wife, Mrs Bickford Smith, on July 23, 1998, at 3.30 p.m. at St James's Church, Canon Row, London EC1A 1BB.

Dinner

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress entertained a dinner last night at the Mansion House in honour of the Lord Chancellor and Lady Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chief Justice and Lady Bingham of Cornhill, the Master of the Rolls and Lady Prendergast, the Vice-Chancellor of the Supreme Court and Lady Scott, the President of the Family Division and Lady Brown and other of Her Majesty's Judges, Aldermen, Sheriffs, the Chief Commoner and some Members of the Court of Common Council and Officers of the Corporation of London and their escorts.

Luncheons

Lord Mayor of Westminster
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress entertained a luncheon last night at the Mansion House in honour of the Lord Chancellor and Lady Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chief Justice and Lady Bingham of Cornhill, the Master of the Rolls and Lady Prendergast, the Vice-Chancellor of the Supreme Court and Lady Scott, the President of the Family Division and Lady Brown and other of Her Majesty's Judges, Aldermen, Sheriffs, the Chief Commoner and some Members of the Court of Common Council and Officers of the Corporation of London and their escorts.

Marriage

Mr M.J. Seddon and Miss C.S. West
The marriage took place on July 18, 1998, at Farnham, Surrey, between Mark James Seddon, formerly of Hampshire, and Catherine Sarah West, of Suffolk.

Lecture

World Congress of Faiths
The Right Rev William Swing, Episcopal Bishop of California, delivered the Sir Francis Young Memorial Lecture at the Royal Scottish Church House, Kings Street, London WC2, yesterday. Mr Hugh Adamson, Chairman of the World Congress of Faiths, presided.

Carpenters' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Carpenters' Company for the ensuing year:
Master, Mr V.G. Marton-Smith; Senior Warden, Mr N.B.C. Maitland; Junior Warden, Mr C.W. Preston; Junior Warden, Mr W.S. Haynes.

Lincolnshire Lieutenancy

The following have been appointed Deputy Lieutenants of Lincolnshire:
Mr J.W.A. Clugston, Mr C.S. Clugston, Mrs V. Hutchison, Mr R.J.H. Sumpter.

London Mayors Association

Councillor Robert Davis has been elected Chairman of the Executive Committee of the London Mayors Association.

Latest wills

Michael Christopher Broughton
Mr Michael Christopher Broughton, of London, died on July 18, 1998. He left an estate valued at £1,958,777 net.
William Kerra, of Devauden, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, left an estate valued at £1,143,453 net.
Patricia Joyce Lois Diana Faulkner, of Farnham, Surrey, left an estate valued at £911,693 net.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, patron and trustee, will attend receptions at St James's Palace at 11.30 and 4.00pm for young people who have reached the Gold Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award; and as patron, will attend the Huntingdon Polo Association reception for the Creation Cup Players at the Dorchester Hotel, at 6.45.

Birthdays today

Mr Norman W. Ayles, educationist, 76; Sir Nicholas Barrington, diplomat, 64; Sir Alastair Down, former chairman, Burnham Oil Company, 84; Mr David Essex, singer, 51; Mr Michael Root, former MP, 85; Mr Graham Gooch, cricketer, 45; Mr A.C. Grayham, former Headmaster, Mill Hill School, 66; Dr Robert Hawley, former chief executive, British Energy, 62; the Rev Betsy Hawthorth, former Church Estates Commissioner, 74; Sir Charles Kerruish, President of the Tyndall, Isle of Man, 81; Mr Clive La Rue, entrepreneur, 71; Mr Chris Rice, cricketer, 49; Lord Rogers of Riverside, 66; Mr Richard Searty, QC, former chairman, The News Corporation, 67; Lord Sheffield, 56; Sir John Stokes, former MP, 81; Mr Peter Twiss, former test pilot, 77.

Armourers and Brasiers

The Company of Armourers and Brasiers 1998 Joint sponsors with British Aeronautical Industry for undergraduates studying materials science or materials engineering have been awarded to:
Mr Kai Dawson, Oxford University; Mr Colin Hamilton, Strathclyde University; Mr Chris Hanson, Manchester University and UMIST; Mr John Walker, Sheffield University.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Coventry Patmore, poet, Woodford, Essex, 1823; Edmund Armstrong, poet, Dublin, 1841; Sir Arthur Whitton, British diplomat, Glasgow, 1896; Raymond Chandler, novelist, Chicago, 1898; Halia Sclasiu, Empress of Ethiopia 1930-36 and 1941-74; Ejsars Goro, near Harar, 1922.
DEATHS: Henry Carey, Lord Hunsdon, soldier and statesman, London, 1596; Richard Gibson, miniature painter, London, 1690; Domenico Scarlatti, composer and organist, Madrid, 1757; Arthur Wolfe, 1st Viscount Kilwarden, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland 1798-1823, assassinated, Dublin, 1803; Elizabeth Hamilton, writer, Harrogate, 1816; Isaac Singer, inventor of the sewing machine, Torquay, 1875; Ulysses Grant, general, 18th American President 1869-77, New York, 1885; Sir John Simon, pathologist, sanitary reformer, London, 1904; Sir William Ramsay, chemist, discoverer of 'inert gases', High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, 1916; James Maxwell, Chairman of the Independent Labour Party 1928-31 and 1934-39, Largs, 1946; D.W. Griffith, film producer, Hollywood, 1948; Henri-Philippe Petain, Chief of State of the Vichy Government 1940-44, le d'Yeu, 1951; Robert Flaherty, film producer, Dumfrieshire, Vermont, 1951; General Sir Charles Gurney, 1st Baronet, British Army, 1945-51; Washington, Nobel Peace Laureate 1945; Washington, 1955; Sir Henry Dale, physiologist, Nobel Laureate 1936, Cambridge, 1968; Eddie Rickenbacker, First World War fighter pilot, Zurich, 1973.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS
RECORDED - Doctor Robert Perry, born 2nd July 1906 died peacefully in his sleep 22nd July 1998. Married by his widow and centurion. Memorial service at University College, London to be announced.
DOLBY - On July 20th at The Portland Hospital to Robert (née Douglas) and Karan, a daughter, Kharu, a daughter, Finola, a sister for Ailie.
EASTWOOD - On July 18th, 1998 to Prue (née Jones), daughter of Mrs M. Eastwood and Christopher Spencer (née Jones), a brother for Jack.
GOODWIN - On July 18th to Sue (née Burgh) and Simon, a daughter, Olivia Chantal, a sister for Bethany Rachel.

FOUNDED - Audrey (née Edwards) died peacefully in her sleep 22nd July 1998. Married by her widow and centurion. Memorial service at University College, London to be announced.
BOYD - Florence Collins, aged 91 years, peacefully in her sleep on July 21st at the Douglas Hospital, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, 484, 486, 488, 490, 492, 494, 496, 498, 500, 502, 504, 506, 508, 510, 512, 514, 516, 518, 520, 522, 524, 526, 528, 530, 532, 534, 536, 538, 540, 542, 544, 546, 548, 550, 552, 554, 556, 558, 560, 562, 564, 566, 568, 570, 572, 574, 576, 578, 580, 582, 584, 586, 588, 590, 592, 594, 596, 598, 600, 602, 604, 606, 608, 610, 612, 614, 616, 618, 620, 622, 624, 626, 628, 630, 632, 634, 636, 638, 640, 642, 644, 646, 648, 650, 652, 654, 656, 658, 660, 662, 664, 666, 668, 670, 672, 674, 676, 678, 680, 682, 684, 686, 688, 690, 692, 694, 696, 698, 700, 702, 704, 706, 708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718, 720, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, 738, 740, 742, 744, 746, 748, 750, 752, 754, 756, 758, 760, 762, 764, 766, 768, 770, 772, 774, 776, 778, 780, 782, 784, 786, 788, 790, 792, 794, 796, 798, 800, 802, 804, 806, 808, 810, 812, 814, 816, 818, 820, 822, 824, 826, 828, 830, 832, 834, 836, 838, 840, 842, 844, 846, 848, 850, 852, 854, 856, 858, 860, 862, 864, 866, 868, 870, 872, 874, 876, 878, 880, 882, 884, 886, 888, 890, 892, 894, 896, 898, 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, 910, 912, 914, 916, 918, 920, 922, 924, 926, 928, 930, 932, 934, 936, 938, 940, 942, 944, 946, 948, 950, 952, 954, 956, 958, 960, 962, 964, 966, 968, 970, 972, 974, 976, 978, 980, 982, 984, 986, 988, 990, 992, 994, 996, 998, 1000.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE
DEAR - Dennis Mansfield, 70, died peacefully in his sleep on Monday 21st July 1998. He was a loving husband and father on this his birthday, from Peggy, Geoffrey and Susan.
GREENHALGH - Betty, 17th April 1905 - 23rd July 1998. Much has happened since you left us but we are all well and hope you are resting peacefully in your thoughts.
MORRIS - Edith Mary (Daisy) died 23rd July 1998. Beloved wife of Robert and darling mother of Ingrid and Richard. Always in our loving thoughts.
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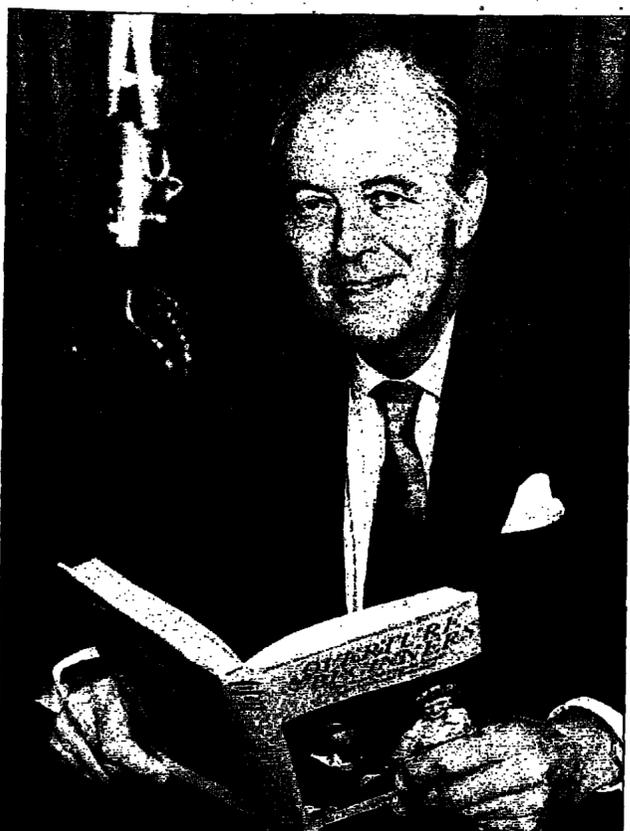
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OBITUARIES

MICHAEL DENISON

Michael Denison, CBE, actor, died yesterday aged 82. He was born on November 1, 1915.

Michael Denison was an actor and a gentleman of the old school. He seemed — and often played — the perfect Englishman of an era now gone, though not forgotten: tall, elegant, charming, polite. His long and happy marriage to the actress Dulcie Gray added to the romance of his public persona.



Michael Denison gives a broadcast reading in 1975 from *Overture and Beginners*, a "double autobiography" of himself and his wife, the actress Dulcie Gray

Even at the comparatively advanced age of 78, he was to be seen on stage at the Chichester Festival (in *An Ideal Husband*, *The Schoolmistress* and *Pygmalion*), and in the popular film about C.S. Lewis, *Shadowlands*. He went on to take *An Ideal Husband* to the West End and to Broadway, and as recently as April this year he and his wife gave their two-hander *Curtain Up* at the Jermyn Street Theatre in London.

John Michael Terence Wellesley Denison looked a classic product of a privileged and upper-class English background. Both personally and professionally, he played up to this appearance and used it to his advantage. His wife seemed equally fortunate, blessed with good looks, talent and popularity. "But the truth of their lives was not so straightforward."

His mother died when he was three weeks old. His father, a paint manufacturer in Doncaster, sent him to live with his mother's sister and her husband, who had no children of their own. They brought him up, sending him to Harrow and then to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he read modern languages. He remembered his uncle especially fondly. "He was the perfect antidote to me — I'm a complete romantic, but uncle was a thwarted romantic. He was an accountant who measured his change from his pockets every night, did a profit

and loss account, and still died in debt. But he had romance in his soul. So while he disapproved me becoming an actor, he understood." At the Webber Douglas School of Drama, where Denison went after Oxford, he was the only person wearing a bowler hat, which helped him to attract the attention of the very young Dulcie Gray. ("She couldn't help noticing, especially as everyone else wore corduroys and roll-neck sweaters.") They married in 1939, when Michael was 23 and Dulcie not yet 20. "We had a grand weekend at the Dorchester even though we couldn't afford it," he had 30 and she

had 27 shillings. They honeymooned in rep in Aberdeen. His career was just beginning to prosper when he was called up to serve in the Royal Signals and Intelligence Corps in 1940. "He left as a 24-year-old repertory actor and came home six years later as a captain in Intelligence," recalled his wife. For Denison, those six war years were "the most torturous I ever endured, because I was away from the theatre. Not to be able to act was terrible. It meant, too, that I missed my opportunity to get a grounding in Shakespeare. I was too old to start after the war."

There was another problem. He had returned to find his wife being hailed as a film star. "I had nothing," he also had to endure being called Mr Gray. Luckily, Dulcie was able to help him to get the part of the doctor in the film *My Brother Jonathan* in 1947, a greater success. The next year the couple both starred in *The Glass Mountain*, bringing international recognition. In the decades that followed, Michael Denison worked steadily in the theatre (including several Shakespeare plays at Stratford) and more occasionally in films. "I once turned down a tempting offer from Hollywood so that I could play a wonderful part in

the London theatre," he mused. "I might have made a lot more money in Hollywood, but would I have survived?" He often appeared on television, the medium which brought him his greatest fame, when he played the title role in *Boyd, QC* on ITV. It was a part that fitted him perfectly. People in the street greeted him with "Hello, Mr Boyd!" A distinguished judge was heard to observe that "Denison could be one of the finest QCs in the country, if he wanted". The programme won higher ratings than any other show on either BBC or ITV, and ran for seven years (1956-63).

Michael Denison was neither complacent nor arrogant, but he was a man who enjoyed and appreciated the good fortune in his life. He took pleasure in his work, his Rolls-Royces, his fine homes. For years the Denisons occupied a Regency house in Regent's Park, then they moved to an Elizabethan manor in Buckinghamshire with a beautiful garden. He cherished the values that for many people he embodied — tolerance, stability, plain good manners. "Where the world has gone wrong is lack of manners," he once declared. "Everyone is too wrapped up in their own thing. Being a gentleman is nothing to do with birth — it's an attitude. I'm intensely patriotic, too." Even his hobbies were quintessentially English: golf, gardening, painting, cricket.

Michael Denison served on the Council of Equity, the Arts Council and the New Shakespeare Company's board. He published two volumes of memoirs, *Overture and Beginners* (1973) and *Double Act* (1985), and articles on theatre people in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. Both he and Dulcie Gray were appointed CBE in 1983. In one interview Michael Denison admitted some regret that they were childless. "Children just didn't happen — I don't know why — and neither of us minded particularly, but I'd quite like to have had grandchildren." This remarkable showbusiness union lasted for almost 60 years. The couple celebrated the first 25 in 1964 with a silver wedding service in the Knightsbridge church where they had married in 1939. Several disapproving relations had refused to attend, predicting that the marriage could not possibly last. Denison is survived by Dulcie Gray.

ALAN SHEPARD

Commander Alan Shepard, American astronaut, died in hospital in California on July 21 aged 74. He was born on November 18, 1923.



Alan Shepard waits for take off in the Mercury capsule atop the Redstone Rocket at Cape Canaveral, May 5, 1961

THE commander of the *Apollo 14* Moon mission, man's third lunar landing, Alan Shepard nevertheless has his principal place in history as the first American to be catapulted into space on the top of a rocket, a feat he achieved on May 5, 1961. True, the flight was a suborbital one, and much less impressive than the complete orbit flown by Yuri Gagarin in the previous month. But in accomplishing what he did that day, Shepard earned the gratitude of an American space industry and people which had suffered grievous humiliation at the hands of Soviet technology over the previous four years.

From the moment on October 4, 1957, when Sputnik I — a satellite of formidable dimensions of which the Americans could only at that stage dream — had orbited the Earth, the US had become accustomed to something at which the national psyche always bristles — coming in second. As rocket after rocket blew up on the launching pad at Cape Canaveral, American scientists had to live with the spectacle of the Soviet Union marching inexorably ahead in space. And their noses were finally truly ground in the unpalatable truth of the superiority of Soviet rockets by the remarkable orbit of the Earth made by Yuri Gagarin on April 12, 1961. It was a demonstration of the capacities of a totalitarian socialist system which was gall to American belief in the innate superiority of a free-enterprise democracy. It fell to Shepard to exorcise this demon of inferiority. To their great credit, the Americans did not, like the Russians, fly first, in conditions of the greatest secrecy, and crow about it afterwards. The whole nation and much of the rest of the world shared, over the radio, in the agonising wait as bad weather forced a succession of postponements over a period of three days.

But as the stress built up over the final countdown which had the hapless Shepard strapped into the capsule for four hours, a moment of humour — one not shared by the world at that time — intervened to ease the tension. Shepard and his controllers were in constant contact, the latter monitoring heartbeat, blood pressure, internal organ

functions and the like. What no one could have foreseen was that in such an interminable wait the astronaut might want to relieve himself. Eventually, bladder unendurably distended, Shepard confided his problem to ground control. The countdown was by then in its final stages and there was general consternation. For Shepard to have disembarked to go to the lavatory would have put the flight in jeopardy for that day, if not for several days, given the treacherous weather conditions prevailing over Florida. Eventually after several minutes in which the boffins contemplated the possible damage to recording instruments in the capsule from an emission of fluid, they delivered to Shepard the laconic verdict: "Pee in the suit."

After a few flashing lights and squawks from electrical circuits unaccustomed to such a round dousing, Shepard was blasted from the launching pad for his 115-mile journey into space which ended 15 minutes later, 302 miles away in the Atlantic. His reward for this historic flight was a hero's welcome in Washington and a reception at the White House where President Kennedy presented him with the Distinguished Service Medal. Born the son of a naval officer in East Derry, New Hampshire, Alan Shepard graduated from the Naval Academy at Annapolis and went on to serve in the later stages of the Second World War. At this

stage he served with the US surface fleet in the Pacific, but in 1947 he began pilot training. In 1950 he joined the US Navy Test Pilot School, where he did a great variety of high-altitude flying and also took part in air-reheating experiments and in landing trials on the first American aircraft carrier to have an angled deck. As such he was a natural candidate to join the band of men selected as the training pool for America's first space flight. And at the end of a training programme of the utmost rigour — during which he was often mercilessly ribbed by old Navy comrades of the "seat-of-the-pants" school of flying on account of the fact that monkeys had been adjudged intelligent enough to pilot earlier space flights — he was selected for the May mission.

Thereafter, a serious onset of inner-ear trouble caused intermittent dizziness and nausea, and he was grounded. However, he was determined to make a return to space flight, and underwent various forms of treatment, none of which, however, completely cured him. Finally, in 1968, he was operated on once more and in May that year he was cleared for further flights into space. In August 1969 he was chosen to command *Apollo 14*, which landed on the Moon in 1971.

In a 13-year career as an astronaut he spent a total of 217 hours in space. He finally retired from NASA and the Navy in 1974. He leaves a widow and two daughters.

JULIAN FAUX

Julian Faux, CB, MI5 officer, died of cancer on July 6 aged 62. He was born on July 28, 1935.

JULIAN FAUX was a charming unflappable man, with a single-minded dedication to

M15. From an early stage in his career he demonstrated a natural aptitude for operational work. He was a renowned agent-runner against Irish terrorists and against the Soviet threat in Britain. In his office at the old

Gower Street headquarters in London, he had a velvet glove pinned to one wall, a reminder to anyone entering his domain that beneath the charm and warm personality, he was a demanding boss with a sharp brain who expected the high-

standards from his intelligence officers in the field. On occasions he could be disconcertingly frank and direct. A colleague remarked early in his career in MI5 that he had a propensity for being rude to senior officers. But his integri-

ty, pragmatism and unflappability were widely recognised. He was a keen advocate of close working relations with MI6, the Secret Intelligence Service, at a time when there was supposed to be more rivalry between the two services than there is today. MI6 and other agencies at home and abroad appreciated his efforts towards closer co-operation, as well as his sense of fun and occasional unorthodoxy.

Julian Faux was born in South Africa into an eminent and prosperous Durban family. After school at Michaelhouse in Natal, he went up to Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, in 1954 to read history.

His spirit of adventure emerged when he spent a year after Cambridge working in the logging industry in Canada and travelling around America. Later he went on an overland journey from Britain to South Africa in an old Land-Rover. His love of Africa and his wish to put something back into society led him to join the Colonial Service. He spent his time in Swaziland, mainly in the field as a district commissioner. He was described as a born leader and one of the best officers of his generation.

He did everything in his power to encourage multi-racial links in a climate resistant to change. In the tur-



Faux believed in bridging the gap between MI5 and MI6

bulence which preceded independence he once faced an angry mob with nothing more than his moral authority and a handful of unarmed police officers to halt their progress. It was with great reluctance and regret that Faux resigned from the Colonial Service in 1968 on the eve of Swaziland's independence. He refused to return to South Africa because of his hatred of apartheid, and decided instead to seek a new career in Britain. Faux joined MI5 in 1968 and filled a wide variety of posts. He served in the counter-subversion section and then had two successive tours as an agent-



Faux believed in bridging the gap between MI5 and MI6

runner, working against terrorist and espionage targets. It was these postings which showed his natural aptitude for operational assignments, rather than desk work. From 1978 he spent 2½ years as the MI5 security officer in the British Embassy in Moscow, where he held a quasi-diplomatic post as First Secretary, advising the Ambassador. Meanwhile he and his wife, Rosemary, whom he had met at Cambridge and married in 1959, travelled in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Mongolia and China. In 1981 he was appointed second assistant director of MI5's sur-

veillance section, A4. His professionalism, sociable nature and down-to-earth manner earned him the respect and affection of his staff. He then took charge of one of the counter-espionage agent-running sections, returning to the aspect of MI5 work which he enjoyed most of all. Faux was well suited by temperament and experience to lead what was in effect a joint MI5/MI6 section.

In 1985 he was promoted to director of A branch, responsible for all of MI5's operational support, including technical operations, transcription, surveillance and scientific research and development. He was seen as a natural choice to succeed Sir Patrick Walker as Deputy Director-General (Operations) in 1988, when Walker became the new Director-General, although it was typical of Faux's modesty that he was initially taken

aback by the appointment. Throughout his career with MI5 he showed great decisiveness and drive and considerable organisational ability and management skills. He was appointed CB in 1991 and retired in 1993. After retirement he carried out security consultancy work, mainly in Commonwealth countries. He is survived by his wife, a daughter and two sons.

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UNSOLD BREAD PROBLEM

BREAD rationing worked yesterday with unexpected smoothness. Unfortunately, it is now clear this was partly caused by unnecessarily heavy buying of bread on Saturday.

ON THIS DAY

Bread was not rationed during the Second World War, but anxieties about supplies of wheat from overseas caused the unfortunate Minister of Food, John Strachey, to announce that bread would be rationed in summer 1946.

permission for one day only to bakers who applied for it to prevent waste. In Glasgow cakes, scones, and tea bread were allowed to be sold off the ration.

THE TIMES

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY



BUSINESS

Cheaper calls abroad thanks to technology PAGE 31



ARTS

London pays host to Canaletto's pictures of home PAGES 35-39



SPORT

Richardson ready to run down champion Johnson PAGES 44-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY JULY 23 1998

Rover to cut 3,000 jobs and working week

By Christine Buckley, Industrial Correspondent

ROVER will today set out plans to cut up to 3,000 jobs and put workers on a four-day week as BMW, its German parent company, embarks on a massive cost-cutting programme.

The UK's biggest car producer will blame the strength of the pound for the cutbacks. Rover has cancelled plans to recruit more than 1,000 workers for the production of its new model and will axe more than 1,500 existing jobs.

set out as BMW unveils half-year results today. Earlier this week Ford confirmed plans to cut thousands of managerial jobs in an effort to boost its competitiveness.

Siemens UK gives recession warning

By Carl Mortished

THE HEAD of Siemens in the UK has warned that key British customers of the German electronics company are suffering a severe drop in orders and he predicted that firms would continue to suffer if Britain remained outside the European single currency.

cannot sell your products. We are already in a recession in manufacturing. He said firms exporting low-tech products were being hit hard.

Later this year Rover will unveil its new model, the R40 saloon. The car will be the first saloon development since BMW bought Rover and was to have been a prestigious occasion. However, it will now be marred by the cancellation of new recruits that the company had heralded only two months ago.



Bernd Fischeitrieder has initiated radical surgery at Rover

Julius fears Bank will cause severe slowdown

By Alasdair Murray and Janet Bush

DEANNE JULIUS, one of the independent members of the Monetary Policy Committee, yesterday claimed that there is a danger the Bank of England will cause a more severe economic slowdown than is necessary to meet its inflation target.

not to raise rates. Geoffrey Dicks, UK economist at Greenwich NatWest, said: "The MPC has much bigger fish to fry than the consumer, notably the minimum wage and higher public spending."

Ms Julius, the only member of the MPC to have worked in industry, was the sole opponent of the June rate rise. She has consistently argued for a rate cut.

London share prices suffered their biggest loss this year as Alan Greenspan's warning over rising inflationary pressures in the US weighed on markets. The Fed chairman, in his Humphrey Hawkins testimony, also said the Asian crisis showed no sign of easing and that a decline in corporate earnings growth was likely to force a correction in share prices.

Retail sales slumped 1.1 per cent between May and June leaving the annual rate of growth at 2.3 per cent - the weakest annual growth rate since July 1996.

years of slow growth as a result. NIESR now believes that sterling will settle no lower than DM2.70. It assumes that base rates will only rise by another 0.25 per cent and then start falling from the beginning of next year. It forecasts that growth will slow to only 1.5 per cent in 1999 and that inflation will fall to below 2.5 per cent by the end of this year.

Willis Corroon turns private

By Gavin Lumsden

WILLIS CORROON, the troubled insurance broker, threw the sector into turmoil yesterday by agreeing to a £851 million cash bid from Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the US management buyout firm.

executive directors are set to invest £2.5 million to £3 million of their own money in the business, although the deal only requires them to stump up £700,000.

Axa set to be FA Cup sponsors

By Caroline Merrill

AXA, the French insurance group that owns Sun Life & Provincial in the UK, is expected to sign a £20 million deal to sponsor the FA Cup over the next four years (Jason Nissee writes).

Nationwide fate in the balance

By Caroline Merrill

THE future of Nationwide Building Society hung in the balance last night after Michael Hardern, the carpetbagger, failed by a narrow margin to win a seat on the board to force through a flotation.

cast their vote against Mr Hardern and Mr Muir have chosen to vote in favour of conversion, then Nationwide faces an embarrassing defeat.

Hurst sale earns Madejski £174m

By Chris Ayres



John Madejski owned 67 per cent of Hurst Publishing

JOHN MADEJSKI, the multi-millionaire chairman of Reading Football Club, yesterday banked £174 million after selling Hurst Publishing, the company behind Auto Trader magazine.

bachelor who once swapped his Berkshire mansion on the Thames with a single mother on income support for a television documentary, held a 67 per cent stake in Hurst. He founded the company in 1976 with Paul Gibbons, a fellow entrepreneur, who held the remaining equity.

The growth of Auto Trader has been fuelled by the strength of the used car market, which has grown by more than 45 per cent since 1992. Last year Hurst's turnover was £72 million, up 22 per cent. Operating earnings were £20.5 million, up 30 per cent.

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BUSINESS TODAY

Table with financial data: STOCK MARKET INDICES, FTSE 100, FTSE All share, Nikkei, New York, Dow Jones, S&P Composite, US RATE, Federal Funds, Long Bond, Yield, LONDON MONEY, 3-month Interbank, Libor 3m, Libor 6m, Libor 12m, New York, London, Frankfurt, Zurich, Tokyo close Yen 146.65, NORTH SEA OIL, Brent 15-day (Oct), GOLD, London close.

Rule change

CITY advisers will no longer be able to scupper hostile bids by buying shares in a target company, under new rules announced yesterday by the Takeover Panel.

Wrong formula

Asian turmoil, low oil prices and labour unrest in the American motor industry are hurting DuPont, the American chemicals group.

STOCK MARKET Stock Market Writer of the Year

Tough talk by Greenspan sends shares plummeting

THE tougher approach to the problems faced by the US economy taken by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, sent share prices on both sides of the Atlantic into a nosedive.



On the ball: David Whelan, chairman JJB, saw shares surge on the back of merger talks with Sports Division

The FTSE 100 index was marked lower on the back of losses in the Far East. It eventually closed 143.1 down at 5,989.6.

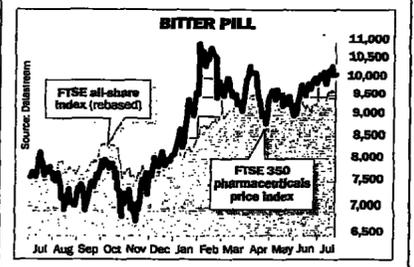
Wall Street fell 106 points overnight and heavy losses in early trading yesterday, saw the London market dive below the 6,000 mark to close at its low point of the day.

Industries fell 6p to 334p after meeting Warburg Dillon Read, the broker. RMC Group dropped 34p to 935p as Credit Lyonnais, the broker, trimmed its forecasts for the next couple of years by 3 per cent to take into account the group's exposure to Germany.

that scrapped plans to go public earlier this year. Nick Bubb, analyst at Société Générale Securities, the broker, said there was only a 60 per cent chance of the deal going through.

Blacks Leisure responded to the news with a fall of 13½p at 274½p while J David Sports put on 2½p at 83½p.

Elsewhere in the retail sector, Selfridges eased 1½p to 23p after its demerger earlier this week from Sears, down a further 9p at 278p. Merrill Lynch, the broker, has initiated coverage of Selfridges with a "neutral" recommendation.



THERE now seems little likelihood of Glaxo Wellcome, down 65p at £18, and SmithKline Beecham, 26½p lower at 718½p, getting together.

He reckons the company compares unfavourably with its US peers with regards to earnings growth and described second-quarter earnings as less than flattering.

Tradepoint, a rival to the London Stock Exchange rose a further 1½p to 35p, after briefly touching 40p, in the wake of the LSE's decision to lead trading at the start of each day by half an hour.

Speculative buying hoisted Jacques Vert another 3½p to 25p. Shant Ahmed, the man behind the Joe Blaggs fashion group, is said to have been stakebuilding.

United Biscuits fell 4p to 235p as 4 million shares changed hands. Merrill Lynch has downgraded its recommendation from "neutral" to "reduce" while cutting its target price from 247p to 215p.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt fell 6.04t to £104.04 as the number of contracts completed reached 81,000. The shorted future was £0.21 down at £102.79 with just three contracts completed.

As a result, some brokers have been taking a fresh look at SB and find that there is little attraction for investors. Steve Abbott at Credit Lyonnais rates the shares a "cautious hold".

He said: "Merger hopes have essentially disappeared and the company looks fully valued on a stand alone basis."

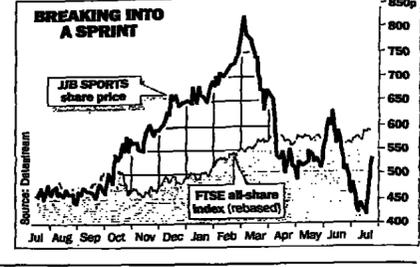
Stagecoach went into reverse in the wake of this week's results with the price dropping 83p to £12.47. Dredner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, is reckoned to have turned seller. Blue Circle

TEMPUS Problems, problems. Back in the real world, the uncertainty surrounding Reuters is almost certainly overdone. As Mr Job puts it, come hell or high water Reuters continues to show growth.

JJB Sports CONSOLIDATION in the sportswear retail sector had become almost inevitable. After the high-profile, high-valuation floatations of JJB Sports and JD Sports a couple of years ago, the sector has begun to turn sour.

Medeva BY THE standards applied to the pharmaceutical industry leaders, shares in Medeva look absurdly cheap. Even after yesterday's savage downgrade of profit forecasts, the shares trade on less than ten times this year's earnings.

Stanley WHILE the weather and the World Cup have played havoc with retailers and pub operators, Stanley Leisure's betting shops have been raking it in.



LIFFE table with columns for COCOA, RIBISAT COFFEES etc.

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm) CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB) and GNL LONDON GRAIN FUTURES table.

LONG-TERM FINANCIAL FUTURES table with columns for Period, Open, High, Low, Sett, Vol.

DOLLAR RATES table listing various countries and their exchange rates.

MAILS-STREET table listing various companies and their share prices.

LIFFE OPTIONS table with columns for Strike, Delta, Gamma, Theta, Vega, etc.

MONEY RATES table with columns for Rate, Tenor, Yield.

OTHER STERLING table listing various currencies and their rates.

FIXED VOLUMES table listing various financial instruments and their values.

Pension funds are doing their... UK quoted shares... the backbone of all pension fund portfolios...

Pension funds are on the way out

This week's new development is the change in accounting for pension funds proposed by Sir David Tweedie's Accounting Standards Board...

greater volatility of reported assets. No chance. The nightmare for finance directors is that the variations in assets relative to liabilities will show up in their accounts...



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

reason why small private schemes used to produce lousy pensions until funds were invested in shares. The other way to protect the company is to transfer the investment risk to the employee...

based on the rolled up value of the investment and rate of interest at the time. Arguments over the virtues of these two types of scheme are endless. In theory, money purchase is fairer and should be better for the mobile employee...

uate more widely as a result. On the stock market, however, companies are under rising pressure to avoid expensive open-ended commitments and control their costs. The greatest influence will surely be what is billed as the "stakeholder pension" but is rapidly emerging as a compulsory tax-style contribution for all based on the lowest common denominator...

predict that the main remaining tax incentives to pension saving will be whittled away and eventually removed. Tax benefit on dividends has already gone. The idea of cutting relief on contributions has already been floated by spin doctors ahead of at least one of Gordon Brown's budgets...

If the Lloyd's system didn't exist, it wouldn't be invented

Robert Hiscox explains why names should not be regarded as indispensable



Fast-moving: Lloyd's is both the most sophisticated insurance marketplace in the world as well as the most volatile

Is there a future for individual names at Lloyd's? Michael Deeney, the chairman elect of the Association of Lloyd's Members, argued last week that there were three compelling reasons why they would continue to provide capital for businesses at Lloyd's...

The first reason was that names provided the most sophisticated form of venture capital. Secondly, now that places on the best syndicates can be purchased through the auction of syndicate capacity, names will continue to purchase capacity and benefit from the tax advantages of the annual venture...

underwriters, as Mr Deeney argues. Quite the reverse. As to the second reason, that value for syndicate capacity will keep the individual name in the market, again I would say the opposite might turn out to be true. The opportunity to sell the right to trade in the following year is irresistible to many names, especially as the market heads into difficult times and tax exemption on the proceeds for those over 50 is withdrawn...



Robert Hiscox is a strong supporter of corporate names

the syndicate capacity for which he wishes to bid. And as the existing names fight to increase the value of their capacity, the more they make it expensive for new names to join. Those who remember the agony of names during the loss-making years of 1988 to 1992 might wonder why any name should fight to remain an investor in the market, especially with unlimited liability in a period of falling rates, rampant competition and the threat of catastrophic losses from the millennium bug. The answer is that membership of Lloyd's in profitable years is a superb investment with tremendous tax privileges. Individuals can share in the profits of an insurance business without putting a penny into the business. They can reserve 50 per cent of the profits in a tax-free reserve. They can pledge assets, liquid or illiquid, which they can continue to control and benefit from, and can underwrite premiums of a multiple of the value of those assets, receiving a full distribution of profits. That is the reason why some are fighting so hard to keep a second source of income, without ana-

lysing too deeply whether that income will continue. (How quickly they seem to have forgotten the bad years). Mr Deeney's final reason was that individual names can vote on any change in Lloyd's by invoking the wholly inequitable one member, one vote rule, and that Parliament will not want to change the Lloyd's Act if Lloyd's is backed by corporate capital and not rich sophisticated individuals. Well, that does shed a very good light on names as capital providers (in fact, quite the reverse), and it does seem to be the old action group leader in Mr Deeney coming out. I am a businessman, not a politician and would rather address the business issues and hope that sensible decisions will be based on commercial logic rather than emotion. Ignoring the threat of unlimited liability for losses and being trapped with liabilities unlimited in both amount and time if a syndicate ceases to trade, when it works it is wonderful for names - but are they the best capital for the business they are backing? The fact is that to retain individual sole trader names, we

have to organise them into joint ventures, with each year of account a separate business. This causes enormous extra expense and a short-term attitude in running the business. There is no other insurance underwriting business in the world of which I am aware that receives its capital by way of partly paid pledges gathered together from thousands of individual traders, each of whom is legally a separate business. Each one also has to have his or her share of the business separately audited in at least three currencies, with each year kept separate for three years at a time, and there must be a full distribution of profits made to each, leaving no reserves in the business. To protect those investors you need a whole panoply of regulation over and above normal prudential supervision. You can see why no one else does it, and why everyone always says that if it did not exist, it would never be invented. In today's highly regulated financial sector, it is high impossible to run such a system with the accounting accuracy demanded, and hopelessly expensive if you do. And I am not sure that individuals should be allowed to trade with unlimited liability in the world's most sophisticated and volatile insurance market. So, for their financial health and for that of Lloyd's, I think that if they wish to share in the fortunes of underwriting at Lloyd's, they should do so through the excellent medium of limited liability shares.

Robert Hiscox was recently appointed chairman of the Lloyd's Corporate Capital Association.

Technology to cut cost of overseas calls

Some claim that international telephone calls are one of the greatest swindles of the century, with governments and telecoms companies accused of keeping tariffs artificially high. Emerging technology could soon change that. The way telephone calls are carried around the world is highly complex, but comparisons can be made with conventional transport. Imagine that data calls are carried on jumbo jets. Voice calls, which take up much less space than data, effectively hide in the luggage compartments of the jets and travel for little or no cost. This has become possible for a number of reasons. Firstly, there has been enormous growth in data communications, fuelled by e-mail and the Internet. Secondly, constantly increasing processing-power makes voice-over-data calls almost as clear as their traditional equivalents. When voice-over-data technology - often referred to as Internet telephony - first emerged, it was dismissed by many as a gimmick. Critics have since been forced to change their tune, however, as more and more large corporations begin testing such systems. Bruce Nelson, chief science officer at Cisco Systems, the US technology group, says large corporations are now merging voice and data to gain impressive economies of scale. Smaller companies can also take advantage of voice-over-data, he adds. The first method is for voice calls to "hitch a ride" on the back of other people's data calls. Because international data calls are bought in bulk...



voice calls can be carried alongside them at virtually no cost. The second way is to subscribe to an Internet telephony service - now available without a PC - which gives calls lower priorities, and therefore lower quality. The growth of data communications almost guarantees that quality will rise while charges fall. Abbey National will today announce that it is spending £30 million to check its computer code for the millennium bug. It has hired Unisys to check 14 million lines of computer code in 16 different languages. Up to 330 staff will be hired as part of the process, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year. PROTECTING company databases - often used to store information which is highly commercially sensitive - is the subject of a new book, Database Law, out this month. Written by Christopher Rees and Simon Chalton of Bird & Bird Solicitors, it explains how databases are protected under laws introduced earlier this year.

Cake walk

BERNARD BRINDLEY, one of the most gentlemanly of the City's Old Guard, is the latest victim of the axe being swung at NPI, the old National Provident, by Alastair Lyons, who arrived as chief executive from the Abbey National a year ago. The NPI has always seemed in a bit of a time-warp in today's City, with its quaint rituals such as bringing out a cake for lunch visitors, and under Lyons it is at last experiencing the joys of life in the late 20th century - delaying profit-related pay, that sort of thing. I leave the reader to decide whether this is a good thing, but Brindley, the sort of per-

son who will invite you out to lunch and then send a letter thanking you for attending, is handing over as finance director some time by the end of the year. The NPI already has a preferred candidate for his successor, and there is a chance he could stay on in some sort of advisory role. No one seems to know what will happen to the cake.



spokesman from Paris. "When the show is finished they will have the security of returning to work in the parades"

Brassed off KEN STANLEY is not very fond of the Common Agricultural Policy, which is why last week a jorry arrived at the House of Parliament and tried to unload two tonnes of brass widgets. Stanley runs Bighead Bonding Fasteners, a small engineer which makes the widgets. He sent a three-kilo sample pack to all 658 MPs as part of a protest against his taxes going to support the CAP. "I was getting sick and tired helping firms set up businesses that were doomed to fail," he says, writing off much of

the farming community in robust terms. To save money, Stanley sent the packs in one delivery, cost £200. This was his first mistake, because the Palace of Westminster refused to accept them, insisting on a cheque for £3,700 to cover hiring Parcelforce to distribute them separately to wherever MPs may be. Stanley handed the cheque over, vowing to contact his own MP for the money back, although he admits he is not hopeful. So far his protest has gained ten responses, some quite abusive, which is not bad for the holiday season. He sent me a pack, too, a collection of curved and rectangular flanges pleasingly reminiscent of the Meccano of my youth. I shall try to find something useful to do with them.

WE ARE offered the services of Geoff Miller, chief strategist at Wise Speke and particularly well regarded for his analysis of the banking and building society sectors. He is offering to comment on "the Nationwide Anglia demutualisation vote" today. No question about Miller's expertise on his chosen subject, but the society hasn't been called that since December 1991.

In the ring A STORY going around South Yorkshire reaches me. Prince

Nazeem Hamed, the world featherweight boxing champion, is in talks to buy Parkhead Hall, the opulent house on the outskirts of Sheffield that is home to the offices of Stephen Hinchliffe, former boss of the collapsed Facia retailing empire and a man for whom controversy is a regular house guest. It seems that the Prince needs somewhere to house his ego, which is several hundred times larger than his 5ft 3in frame, and there are suggestions that Hinchliffe, whose lawyer has issued a half-hearted denial, might move his much-reduced business somewhere more modest. Hinchliffe is himself 6ft 5in tall. Any negotiations between the two must be quite a sight.



Prince Nazeem: on the move

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES Save £5 on guide to the House of Commons Readers can buy The Times Guide to the House of Commons, May 1997, for just £30, a saving of £5 on the normal selling price of £35. The guide is edited by Times journalist Tim Austin and features contributions by Simon Jenkins, Matthew Parris and Anthony Howard. One year on from Labour's historic May 1997 landslide victory, a fully revised and updated edition of the definitive, bestselling guide is a must for every bookshelf. THE BOOK CONTAINS: a biography and photograph of every MP detailed constituency-by-constituency breakdown of results authoritative analysis and comment the Cabinet and Shadow Cabinets in full details of by-elections since May 1997 Fold-out colour map. The Times Guide to the House of Commons Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms RUCR/DUBS Address Postcode Please send me copies of The Times Guide to the House of Commons at £30 per copy, (£5 off incl. p&p I enclose a cheque/PO or money payable to: The Times FT706 Value Card No. Please write name and address on back of all cheques. Or debit my MasterCard/Visa card no. Signature Date Send coupon and remittance to: The Times Guide to the House of Commons FT706, PO Box 545, Falmouth TR11 2RX Allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. No claims for loss in transit can be made after 60 days. If dissatisfied, please return the book(s) within seven days for a full refund. The offer is subject to availability. Please tick box if you do not wish to receive further details from The Times or companies approved by us. CREDIT CARD ORDERS ON 0990 134 459 CHANGING TIMES



Equities and gilts suffer

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ELECTRICITY, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, ENGINEERING, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, LEISURE & HOTELS, OIL & GAS, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, SUPPORT SERVICES, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER, and OTHER FINANCIAL.

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Advertisement for GLEESON M J GLEESON GROUP PLC. Text: 'expertise founded on experience', 'Local and national strength built up over nearly 100 years', 'CONSTRUCTION • PROPERTY • HOMES'.

Table of BRITISH FUNDS, categorized into SHORTS (under 5 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNDATED, and INDEX-LINKED (on projected inflation of 2%).

Source: FT Information. Price marked includes dividend. Figures in italics are estimates. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, price, and change. Includes sections for various fund categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

Advertisement for BTX (Business Technology Exchange) with the headline 'Improve your fiscal fitness.' and a graphic of a person running.

GALLERY

Story tell

W

سكوا من الاصل



FILM
Branagh goes
into Grisham
territory
PAGE 36

THE TIMES
ARTS

MUSIC
A Proms
outing for rare
Kurt Weill
PAGE 39



GALLERIES: Richard Cork marvels at a new National Gallery show surveying Canaletto's views of his home town



Canaletto's *A Regatta on the Grand Canal*: a pictorial chronicle, characteristically sumptuous yet also remarkably detailed, of a great public spectacle in Venice, the city that the artist loved above all others. National Gallery, London

Venice through the eyes of its greatest salesman

Despite his immense fame, Canaletto is too often dismissed as a doggedly literal-minded view painter. His popularity did lead him into repetition, and a large exhibition would undoubtedly reveal his reliance on formulae to satisfy clients' voracious demands. But a survey as tight and selective as the National Gallery's show, concentrating on his views of Venice alone, offers an eye-cleansing corrective.

Canaletto emerges as a far more various and resourceful artist than his detractors claim. His father, with whom he studied and then collaborated in Rome, was a theatrical scene-painter. Canaletto inherited his sense of drama, along with a need for artifice to underpin the supposedly objective images he produced. Patrons lauded Canaletto's accuracy, and he certainly introduced an uncanny sense of realism to his Venetian panoramas. But the exhibition discloses that he was capable of inventiveness, and could take surprising liberties with the canals running through the city of his birth.

Just how free the young Canaletto could be is demonstrated in a surprising canvas from a private collection. Painted in 1725, it looks down the Grand Canal towards the north side of the Rialto Bridge. The subject is predictable enough, but his handling of the scene flouts expectation at every turn. Most buildings are dark, and the Rialto reduced to a near-silhouette.

Canaleto cannot indulge in the detailed delineation of architecture so typical of his later pictures. The water is devoid of those little white curves which become such an irritating mannerism later. Instead, its milky green texture is defined with great subtlety, most of all at the point where the sun strikes its surface with agile slashes of pigment.

The spume thrown up by the action of oars is miraculously conveyed. So are the swift, agile gestures of the boatmen straining to their task. Closer scrutiny is rewarded by the sight of minuscule figures balanced giddily under the eaves and on the rooftop of the Fabbrice Vecchie building. One man is caught straddling the ridge, carrying tiles on his head. His bowed limbs are depicted as crisply as the fall of light spraying the roof with splashes of ochre warmth.

Canaleto is associated with placid summer days. But in a smaller early canvas lent from the Ferens Art Gallery in Hull, the Grand Canal is threatened by a tumultuous cloud. The buildings on one side of the water are already engulfed in a dramatic blackness. As for the Palazzo Balbi on the opposite bank, it stands out with eerie brightness. Only a few vessels float in the canal itself, and Canaleto makes their oarsmen look unexpectedly lonely. One in particular, his white shirt blazing with extraordinary force, is pitched against the emptiness of the water around him.

The virtuosity of figure painting in Canaleto's paintings is often overlooked. Luca Carlevaris, an older artist who pioneered the grand Venetian view, delighted in making small oil sketches of gondoliers and the boats they steered. But Canaleto, who did not execute such studies himself, outstripped Carlevaris in the liveliness of his figures. The foreground of the justly celebrated *Stonemason's Yard*, painted when he was just over 30, is enlivened by an almost Hogarthian feeling for the animal energy of everyday Venetian life.

While a stone cutter kneels by his block and wields a hammer with seasoned assurance, domestic tumult breaks out nearby. A red-faced baby, who has tumbled back on the ground, lies screaming and urinating. An older child stands impassively by, while the mother abandons her broom and rushes forward to help the infant. Another woman, alerted by the noise, leans down from her balcony, and even the rooster perched on a window-sill below stares sideways at the commotion.

Story tells vivid picture

When Lisa Kron took her father on a trip from his Michigan town home to the German town where he was born, and then to Poland, she snapped plenty of photos. She stands in the Pir's pit, a middle-aged American in brown jacket and baggy black slacks, contriving to look like a slightly underdressed geography teacher as she points to a screen behind her. The oddity is that every single slide, whether it is meant to be of places or of people, is a silvery blank.

THEATRE
2.55 Minutes
Barbican Pt

Not that Kron is as portentous as that. She is a professional actress who has done time with New York's WOW Cafe Theatre Collective and Five Lesbian Brothers. She has even won a Robert Chesley Gay and Lesbian Playwriting Award. But I am willing to bet that she has

never displayed her professional qualities to finer effect than here. I would say she dares to be amateurish, if it didn't sound rude. You go to see a performer and you meet a person.

There is a structure to what it would be too grand to call a confession, too trivialising to call reminiscence. She moves about a stage furnished only with a plain chair and stool, her narrative shifting from the Auschwitz vacation to the annual family trip to an Ohio amusement park to her brother's wedding.

The other Shakespeare

This is Shakespeare as we never normally see it — characters from six different plays plummeting into the one about the mysterious island to act out adventures vaguely recognisable from their own stories interlarded with others invented for the occasion.

Other Shakespeare
Shakespeare's
The Tempest

Published in Cuba. So here it is, playing twice daily on the shores of the Thames for a week, lasting an hour and a half and performed in Spanish. Don't worry if you cannot speak Spanish (so we are told), it is all very visual, and while it is true that the costumes glitter, the movement is exciting and the masks are marvels, this visual panache leaves you craving to be told what lies behind the shifts in misfortune and understand the grace notes that will always escape a synopsis.

Hamlet I think she is accusing him of being fat, which he admits in his own play though nobody tells him so to his face. She happens to be his mad vision, but Hamlet himself is one of the citizens brought to the island to create a brave new world. Macbeth is among them, and Othello, slated to marry Miranda after Prospero finds her romping in the pampas grass with Caliban.

Yoruban deities intervene and are first seen when the goddess Sycorax gives birth to her three daughters. Eight legs beat the air like a huge brown beetle turned onto its back. The encounter between the white-bearded Prospero (Orestes Pérez) and an almost naked Caliban (José Juan Rodríguez), sensually overwhelmed at seeing stars through his new master's

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

JEREMY KINGSTON

FILM

Cartoon Camelot

Branagh goes Hollywood

NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown sees Robert Altman joining forces with Kenneth Branagh in *The Gingerbread Man*

Deep trouble in the Deep South

Robert Altman's new film, *The Gingerbread Man*, is based on an original story by John Grisham, though the director appears almost proud that he had no contact with the king of legal melodramas. "I never talked to him or met him. I wouldn't know if he fell in my soup," Altman told *Entertainment Weekly*. For some of the time, indeed, the 73-year-old maverick of *MASH* and *The Player* behaves as though there were no Grisham story at all; and the signs are that Altman contributed mightily to the finished script, ascribed to one mysterious Al Hayes. He kicks off the film with a party scene in Savannah, Georgia, full of free-flowing, Altmanesque chat. He lavishes attention on the weather, whipping up a hurricane, painting scenes in delicate shades of rainy grey.

There is also unconventional casting to grab us by the lapels. Grisham movies are usually gleaming, star-driven vehicles; but here we get Kenneth Branagh, kitted out with a light Southern accent, lending brusque force to his lawyer character, one Rick Magruder, a golden boy, fond of the bottle, fond of women, fond of himself. The party scene is no director's arabesque: it is there he meets the mysterious heroine, played by Embeth Davidtz, another player with limited box-office pull. They enjoy a one-night stand; she tells of being stalked by her father, a backwoods fundamentalist. Smitten, Branagh rushes to rescue the damsel in distress, but the arrest of her father (Robert Duvall, with crazed eyes and a shaggy beard) only makes matters worse. Especially for Branagh, arrested for murder.

With this plot, Grisham departs from his David versus Goliath formula, and wanders close to film noir territory. Branagh is the investigator blithely stumbling into trouble. Davidtz, the *Jemima Jatala*, while Hurricane Gerald provides another genre requirement, extreme weather. But there is still nothing unpredictable here: the plot moves steadily from A to Z, and Altman remains boxed in, with little room for side-shows. The sheer professionalism

The Gingerbread Man

Warner West End 15, 115 mins
Altman tackles John Grisham

Hana-Bi

ABC Shaftesbury Ave 18, 103 mins
Japanese fireworks from Takeshi Kitano

The Daytrippers

Curzon Mayfair 15, 87 mins
Likeable American indie

Paulie

Plaza U, 87 mins
Chattering parrot hits funny mood swings

The Magic Sword: Quest for Camelot

Warner West End U, 88 mins
Unexceptional family cartoon

The Castle

Empire, 15, 86 mins
An Australian man's home is his...

Dance of the Wind

Renoir, U, 87 mins
Delicate Indian drama

of the film, though, is a joy in itself. For his cameraman, Altman picked Changwei Gu, who gave such a succinct look to *Farewell My Concubine* and other modern Chinese classics. A Savannah glowering in a hurricane's wake scarcely suggests a riot of colours, but Changwei still does his bit, flecking the grey skies with red from a car's rear lights, the heroine's umbrella, or emergency flares. And Altman's cast relish their oddball characters, weaving through a town seen as even more eccentric than the Savannah of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

There is genuine tension between the foolhardy Branagh and the prickly Davidtz; you care what happens, even when the plot's logic slips beyond the pale. Maybe Robert Duvall is stuck with a cliché; so is Robert Downey Jr, though his

primary flight feathers are clipped in a scene graphic enough to make even adults cover their eyes. With the tone lurching wildly from scene to scene, Paulie is the film's only anchor. Fourteen different birds were used, plus one animatronic puppet, and the voice of Jay Mohr. He puts along pavements, cocks his head charmingly, but still remains a hard bird to like. An Englishman, John Roberts, directed.

More wondrous sights are on display in *Hana-Bi*, the most thoughtful film yet from the Japanese cult director Takeshi Kitano. The title means fireworks, though the hyphen pointedly splits up the title into the Japanese words for flower and fire. Flower and fire, beauty and violence: key ingredients in Kitano's world, where gangster bloodshed is regularly interrupted by lyrical interludes, often set by the sea (as in *Sonatine*). The current film refines his style to the nth degree; dialogue is so sparse that you might almost be watching a silent film, and the elliptical editing whisks us, at times disconcertingly, between different points in time.

Kitano's characters have never been characterboxes, but detective Nishi (Kitano himself, under his acting name Beat Takeshi) scales a new peak of silence. His wife is diagnosed with a terminal illness. His colleague Horibe is shot during a stakeout, and becomes confined to a wheelchair. Feelings hidden under dark glasses and tight lips, Nishi leaves the force and robs a bank to finance, among other things, a last trip with his wife and the supply of art materials to Horibe, who has taken up painting. But a blunt rehearsal of the plot can give no indication of the film's visual power.

This is Kitano's most personal work. He himself escaped death four years ago in a bike accident, and he is the painter of Horibe's artwork, bizarre amalgams of flowers and animals. The director's oblique manner needs an audience on the ball; but Kitano can make the most taciturn gaze speak volumes, and as the jigsaw builds there is never a doubt about the emotional force of this meditative tale of flowers and fire, of life and beauty in the face of death.

Big issues are equally at stake in Greg Mottola's very likeable *The Daytrippers*, a low-budget first feature. Can Louis really be cheating on his Long Island housewife Eliza? The letter she finds, ending "Love forever, Sandy", seems to suggest this. So Eliza, sister Jo, Jo's boyfriend Carl, and both their parents cram into the family station wagon to confront Louis at work in Manhattan. It is not the best family outing; there is no heat in the car, and Carl keeps babbling about his awful novel-in-progress. Once they hit the Big Apple, misfortunes multiply and family togetherness fades fast.

Mottola shapes this suburban road movie with a firm hand and a breezy wit, though at the end he lets shadows fall: banter is replaced by real pain and loneliness. The cast take the script's turns in their stride. Stanley Tucci is the wayward Louis; Liev Schreiber the insufferable Carl; Parker Posey the younger sister. Among the leads, only Hope Davis, as cuckolded Eliza, has yet to make her mark. Not every American independent movie these days deserves a welcome, but *The Daytrippers* does.

Paulie is much harder to embrace. This should have been a winning American family film about a parrot, whose talk far exceeds "Pretty Polly", searching for his girl playmate, Marie. But the script, intent on fable status, cannot stop wading into territory and language unsuitable for toddlers. Paulie picks up rough words in a pawn shop ("Hit the bricks, ugly!"). Gena Rowlands, one of Paulie's owners, loses her sight, then dies. After joining a group of dancing birds owned by street vendor Cheech Marin, Paulie lands in an animal laboratory, where



Laying down the law: Robert Duvall has more than the odd cliché to worry about in Robert Altman's accomplished new film, *The Gingerbread Man*

his primary flight feathers are clipped in a scene graphic enough to make even adults cover their eyes. With the tone lurching wildly from scene to scene, Paulie is the film's only anchor. Fourteen different birds were used, plus one animatronic puppet, and the voice of Jay Mohr. He puts along pavements, cocks his head charmingly, but still remains a hard bird to like. An Englishman, John Roberts, directed.



The Japanese director Takeshi Kitano is also the actor Beat Takeshi in the brutal, but beautiful, *Hana-Bi*

SNAP VERDICT

'Dire, clichés abound'

Every week young film fans discuss the latest releases

THE GINGERBREAD MAN

Leslie: Plenty of fun for the kids but also a nice quota of jokes for mum and dad. Carl: Fast-moving animated film, wonderful characters. Charlotte: Warner Brothers tries to do a Disney and it's not a bad attempt. Allison: Perfect all-round entertainment.

THE MAGIC SWORD

Leslie: What a strange ending. Still, highly recommended though. Carl: A bright witty film that will charm the pants off you. Charlotte: Actress Parker Posey is extremely watchable. Allison: Parker Posey is jaw-dropping. It has been a long time since the cinema has seen a talent of this magnitude.

THE DAYTRIPPERS

Leslie: What a strange ending. Still, highly recommended though. Carl: A bright witty film that will charm the pants off you. Charlotte: Actress Parker Posey is extremely watchable. Allison: Parker Posey is jaw-dropping. It has been a long time since the cinema has seen a talent of this magnitude.

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"An extraordinarily assured and imaginative film... A MASTERPIECE"
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★★★★★
"GENIUS"
Ben Thompson - GQ
"BRILLIANT"
Derek Malcolm - THE GUARDIAN
★★★★★
"An EPIC film disguised as a thriller"
Chris Roberts - UNCLUT.
★★★★★
"WONDERFULLY INVENTIVE"
Garth Grundy - NEON
HANA-BI
STARTS TOMORROW
METRO
GATEWAY
ABC

سكزا من الاصل

THURSDAY JULY 21 1961

■ **Fun**
Cartoon **Cameo**
Whread Man



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AP - (AP)

PROMS

A notable premiere

Honour finally done to Prophets

MUSIC: Rodney Milnes talks to the conductor Matthias Bamert about preparations to bring one of Kurt Weill's greatest works to the Proms

There is still a lot of unfinished business with Kurt Weill, unbelievably given that he died nearly half a century ago...

at the time," Bamert insists. "but the company went bankrupt." Since when, scarcely a note of one of Weill's most ambitious works has been heard...



Kurt Weill: some of his major works are still awaiting premiere, after his music was suppressed during the Nazi period

"He certainly was. I was with him in his last year, when everyone agreed he had mellowed a bit, but even in his mellow state he was pretty scary..."

erto unperformed, presents special problems. Tempo markings are inconsistent, instrumentation incomplete...

TOMORROW

Latest pop albums

Blazing sun proclaims fine new composer

Getting this season's series of Proms commissions off to an auspicious start, Julian Anderson's The Stations of the Sun formed the centrepiece of Tuesday's concert...

PROMS BECSO/Davis Albert Hall/Radio 3

glect seem all the more unjustified, and he captured every facet from its swagger to its melting tunes...



Julian Anderson: making light work of 17 minutes

G minor showcased generous solo playing from Kyoko Takezawa, who produced a big sound while seldom forcing...

A firm grasp of the Handel

It is starting to look as if verdant lawns and marquee are a sine qua non for opera nowadays...

Opera was also in charge of the only previous revival (Abingdon, 1973), and he drew neat, stylish playing from his Raglan Baroque Players...

The title role was taken by the Belarusian counter-tenor Slava Kagan-Paley. He does not possess a huge voice, but he is extremely musical...

Sexy Cornish sisters

Music Theatre Ker now is not, as some might suppose, a company from an obscure corner of the former Soviet Union...

with the lusty enthusiasm of the role. Ian Jervis as Don Alfonso more than made up for an undistinguished voice...

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BACK FROM OUTBACK
A novel by Les Murray

BOOKS

ITSY BITSY BOOK
Alan Bennett's short

He coined his own image

Summer reading
for Bill Gates:
Raymond Seitz
on a magnate's
magnetism

On the snake-oil circuit of the Midwest, John D. Rockefeller's father was known as 'Big Bill'...

From this oxymoronic union came, in 1839, the richest man in the world as well as the world's first modern philanthropist...

Rockefeller began his career as a high-stool book-keeper in a Cleveland commission house...



Rockefeller transformed his image by giving nickels and dimes to children, and by his charitable works: the oil magnate sculpted by Jo Davidson, 1924

self-taught English chemist named Sam Andrews, Rockefeller transformed oil into kerosene which from then on lit the houses of America...

While Rockefeller contended that free-market competition was unstable and ultimately ruinous...

In 1902, the eminent muckraker Ida Tarbell published in McClure's magazine a 19-part series on Standard Oil...



Little, Brown, £25
ISBN 0 316 64888 5

break the back of the monopoly.

Standard Oil was divided into 30 separate companies, most of which prospered...

How to spend it? Rockefeller wanted to be both rich and virtuous...

ded to give it away. With the galvanised assistance of a remarkable Baptist visionary named Frederick Gates...

Rockefeller wanted to live to be 100 and almost did. In his later years he became a light-

hearted old gent who played golf daily, stroked the knees of female companions and passed out nickels and dimes as souvenirs...

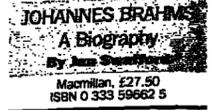
Chernow concludes that Rockefeller, as the architect of the first great industrial trust...

Raymond Seitz's memoir, Over Here, is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, priced £20.

Composing the riddle of his life

Lost in music: Robert Winston on the enigma of Johannes Brahms

A composer friend tells me that he finds it difficult to listen to the combination of a piano and stringed instruments playing together...



JOHANNES BRAHMS
A Biography
By Jan Swafford
Marion, £27.50
ISBN 0 333 59662 5

It seems that Brahms wanted to hide both his feelings and the details of his life. Towards the end he destroyed many records and musical

manuscripts. Heinz Becker, writing in the New Grove, quotes Clara Schumann in 1880: 'To me he is as much a riddle...'



Brahms: a true Romantic?

The extraordinary friendship between Brahms and Clara Schumann developed. The exact nature of their relationship is enigmatic. Brahms was crippled in his attitude to women...

It is fitting that the first in a new series of tiny books (measuring just 6 x 5 1/2 inches) should recount the life of one of the smallest people ever to have lived...

Little wonders

per in 1824 called Cramachi. 'Unquestionably the most curious of all the dwarfish candidates for public favour that have visited this metropolis...'

inverts the order of freakishness, inviting us to consider those who gawped at Cramachi as the true freaks. She quotes contemporary newspaper reports...

tain rails and loo paper holder. Through a material disaster, the burglary has unexpected benefits...

Baldly stated, the plot sounds rather creaking and sentimental - and perhaps it is, but Bennett's humour is sharp enough to rescue matters...



Profile Books, £3.99
ISBN 1 86197 088 9

Alain de Botton's book, How Proud Can Change Your Life, is published by Picador, priced £5.99.

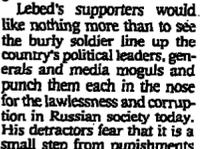
tionist ('Can you hold?'). It's a story full of jolly, broad and very English humour with the smell of a seaside pantomime about it...

Victor of the Chechen War

When Aleksandr Lebed took command of a paratroop battalion during the war in Afghanistan he was immediately confronted with the deteriorating discipline in the Soviet Armed Forces...

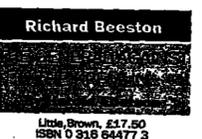


On the stump in Siberia: Lebed before winning the governorship of Krasnoyarsk



Profile Books, £3.99
ISBN 1 86197 909 0

Harold Ellenson's biography, The General Against the Kremlin, could not have come out at a better time. Written off after his dismissal from the Kremlin by President Yeltsin in 1996...



Little, Brown, £17.50
ISBN 0 316 64477 3

has put together a sound biography which draws heavily on newspaper articles and on Lebed's memoirs, Pity the Motherland.

ry flashpoint over the past 30 years. Lebed served in Afghanistan and in the ethnic wars which broke out as the Soviet Union collapsed...

Others contend that Lebed has proved himself an intelligent leader, who has made war but also brought peace. His grasp of economics may be shaky...

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THERE'S a line by Shakespeare which will serve as a touchstone to tell you if you are likely to enjoy Fredy Boetscher...

Poetic walkabout through history

At first, it looks off-putting: a novel in five books, written in the first person singular, each book consisting of several hundred eight-line stanzas...

some of the stanzas as most novelists can get into a chapter. The narrator is a modern Ancient Mariner, a sailor by the name of Fredy Boetscher...

rich, to whom he confides his secret. 'Your skin is dead, then?' she says prettily, after reading Rilke's poem about the panther in the cage...

sometimes brawling manner that makes him sound like a man shouting certainties to cheer himself up in the Outback...

ROBERT NYE

سكزا من الأمل

كذا من الأصل

A GOOD INNINGS Cricket's great hero

BOOKS

THE MORAL MAZE How to get it right

Orwell, the honest master of the poetry of fact

NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS... GEORGE URWELL... The Tribune... Timeless: Orwell's journalism is still incisive

The diaries which George Orwell kept during the Second World War contained many intriguing references: 'The Germans are definitely in Paris...'

The complete artist or myth? Peter Ackroyd relishes a genius... proper way to make tea. Yet his central preoccupations remained the same...

It is no more plain than the fact that plain George Orwell was in reality Eric Blair... He once said of Dickens that 'strongly individual' writing displays the face of the author behind it...

It was in many respects a hectic and feverish life, but not without a certain nobility of purpose. He was haunted by the spectre of failure and by the fear of poverty...

IN a small town on the West Coast of Scotland, the choir of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour School for Girls is preparing for a trip to the capital for national singing finals...

Taking comfort in a classic Malcolm Bradbury finds more to Stella Gibbons than one great novel

Flora Poste, the cool, clever, confident heroine of Stella Gibbons's glorious parody-romance Cold Comfort Farm (1932) announces: 'I would like to write a novel as good as Persuasion, but with a modern setting of course.'

formed into clear-eyed modern woman, who controls her own destiny and those of all the other strange characters she meets out at Cold Comfort Farm...

"higher common sense" found fewer perfect targets (though it did find Charles Morgan). So a sense of disappointment, along with a pleasant portrait of a life well and thoughtfully lived, pervades this pleasing account.

As someone who admires irony, parody, the chill winds of Jane Austen, the higher common sense, I have always loved Stella Gibbons — the author you sense behind the works. I share that sense with many, from Angus Wilson to Barry Humphries...

one's mind. Simon Rae, whose day job is poetry, has meticulously chronicled W.G.'s cricketer exploits. There is a generous statistical annex for the anoraks...

well explained, and his influence on the shape of the game — still felt today — is clearly described. But Rae seems to find it hard to fathom what exactly the great man thought he was up to in his forties and fifties...

In praise of Ethics Girl's dilemmas

I came to Mary Warnock's An Intelligent Person's Guide to Ethics with a severe prejudice against its author. A major public figure, who had moreover been very snobbish about Margaret Thatcher, she must, I fancied, belong to that permanent aristocracy of enlightened noddies appointed to underwrite our masters' never-ending work of moral and cultural attrition.

emerge, the cell-cluster from which it develops should be used experimentally only until that date and then destroyed. Nevertheless, this does not prevent her from countenancing the abortion of an unwanted foetus, albeit with severe misgivings...

from Ancient Greece to Foucault and Derrida, deny all possibility of genuine altruism, or of the shared world of meanings on which it, and morality generally, depend.

High ideal: Warnock shows goodness is not just for prigs the love of which a proper moral education ought to excite in us. Without it, she observes, all the "public morality" in the world — law, civic responsibility and the rest — is worthless...

Robert Grant is reader in English Literature at the University of Glasgow.

Warner writes: "On radios, traffic reports last longer than weather forecasts and financial reports last longest of all. A castle acts as a vague focus of a capital that apes history but seems a stage set for some idea that's been forgot."

BOOKS ON SATURDAY: IN METRO Francis Gilbert gets the lowdown on Irvine Welsh; the winner of the IMPAC prize reviewed; plus the top 40 bestsellers

TSY BOOK... short... imposing middle of life... n War

Bargains of the week: from learning to paint in western France, to bed and breakfast on Jersey, Bermuda and in northern Cyprus and Somerset



A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and farther afield, many at bargain prices

BRITISH ISLES

PLANESPOTTERS will enjoy the International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, this weekend and Country Holidays has properties available in the area for three-night breaks from tomorrow. Prices start from £273 for a bungalow at Insworth. Details: 01282 445095.

PORLOCK in Somerset features in a late offer from Countrywide with five nights' dinner, bed and breakfast (plus picnic lunches) in a guesthouse from next Monday costing £150, a saving of £50. Details: 0161-446 2226.

JERSEY is being enjoyed some of the best of our modest weather and Thomas Cook

Holidays still has a week's B&B on the island from August 1 for £299, with flights from several UK airports. Details: 01733 418300.

COACH TOURS to Dunoon in western Scotland for eight days from Saturday and to southeast Devon for a week from August 2 are available from the Peterborough area with Shaw's Coaches. Priced from £320, including half-board and several excursions. Details: 01778 342224.

PORTMARNOCK Hotel and Golf Links, near Dublin, with one of the finest courses in Europe, is offering budding Mark O'Mearas and even Justin Ross a weekend package from August 14 which includes two nights' B&B, a round of golf and a gourmet dinner for £200. Travel is extra. Details: 00 353 1846 0611.

THE FOOTBALL season is nearly upon us and eagerly awaited is the August 18 meeting of Manchester United and a European team led by their former captain, Eric Cantona, being staged at Old Trafford as a memorial to the Munich air disaster. Goldenrail is offering a ticket to the game and a night's B&B plus transfers for £80. Details: 01904-638 973.

EUROPE

FRENCH cottages, farmhouses and villas are still available this summer in ten regions, from the Alps and Auvergne to Provence and the Pyrenees, from VFB Holidays. They include a villa in the far south, which sleeps eight and has a pool. Cost: £834 for a week, including Channel crossing. Details: 01242 240310.

VISBY's Medieval Week from August 2 on the Swedish island of Gotland features jousting, drama and a traditional market and can be visited with ScanMeridian Travel. A two-night weekend break to Stockholm costs from £279 with return flights to Visby costing an extra £75. Details: 0171-431 5322.

PRAGUE can be visited this summer for just £104 and that sum includes a week's rail pass so you can explore more of the Czech Republic. The deal is based on coach travel, but Carabus Travel can also arrange flights from £163 return. Details: 0171-730 3402.

IBIZA self-catering holidays are available next month from Lun Pol. Fly from Newcastle on an Airtours holiday

on August 3 for £289, based on four sharing, or leave from Glasgow the next day for a fortnight's Thomson Club Freestyle break for £305, based on three sharing. Details from Holiday Shops.

NORTHERN Cyprus has remained isolated since the Turkish invasion 24 years ago, but that has left it unspoilt and rarely included in holiday offers. Throughout August, however, Metak Holidays has a week's B&B in Bogaz for £409, with return flights from Heathrow or Stansted. Details: 0171-935 6961.

MALTA holidays for a week from August 5 are being discounted by Belleair Holidays, with self-catering at St Paul's Bay costing £278, based on five sharing, and half-board at a Buggiba hotel costing £346. Both start with a flight from Stansted. Details: 0181-785 3266.

LEARN to paint in the ideal setting of a converted farmhouse with pool in the Charente, western France. The tutor, Gillian Daniell, is running a week's course from August 30, costing from £300, including meals and lessons, but you must make your way there. Details: 0171-226 5370.



Ah, sweet residents in an orang-utan sanctuary

LONG HAUL

THE 'TIGER' economies' difficult summer is at least ensuring that holidays to the region are available at attractive prices. Tony Dawe writes.

A TOUR of Malaysia's Borneo states with Worldwide Journeys & Expeditions has been reduced by £300 and includes a trek up Mount Kinabalu, a visit to an orang utan sanctuary and a tour of Sarawak's oldest national park. The 15-day trip costs from £1,445, including all travel and meals, and can be arranged to suit individual needs. Details: 0171-381 8638.

A BEACH hotel in Penang is available for £599 for a fortnight from August 16 from Thomas Cook Holidays with a flight from Heathrow and Destination Far East has a range of 12-night packages to Bali, Indonesia, costing from £611 this month, including sightseeing tours. Details: Thomas Cook, 01733 418450; Far East, 0171-336 7788.

AN adventure-seeker trip through New Zealand, including cave-tubing, bungee-jumping and sailing to a desert island, plus more traditional ac-

tivities, is available from Connections for 18 to 35s. The 15-day tours, starting on August 9 and in October, cost from £695, based on four sharing. Flights are extra, but the company can arrange good deals. Details: 0181-742 8612.

EILAT for a week from August 10, with a flight from Gatwick, is on offer from £345 from Longwood Holidays and you can even get a free video to see what it's like before you get there. Details: 0181-551 4494.

THE BERMUDA hotel owned by Michael Douglas, the movie star, is included in a new programme from Hayes & Jarvis, with a week's bed and breakfast costing £999, with return flights until September 12, when prices drop. Details: 0181-222 7833.

All prices are per person and based on two sharing a room, unless otherwise stated.

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FAX: 0171 782 7824

TRAILFINDERS advertisement featuring a table of current best buys on the world's finest airlines, a central offer for Queensland, Australia (7 days free car hire & return flights from only £659), and contact information for their travel centers.

USA & CANADA travel advertisement with icons for Tailor Made, Motor Homes, and Self Drive tours, and contact details for Statesavers and Seagull Travels.

OVERSEAS EXPRESS advertisement for Kenya Specialists, offering tailor-made safaris and video brochures.

Airline Network ~ the way to go! advertisement listing flights to USA & Canada, Australia & NZ, and Rest of the World, with contact numbers.

FLIGHTWISE advertisement listing flight prices to various destinations like London, Paris, Rome, and more.

MAJOR USA advertisement for Major Travel, offering flights to major US cities like New York, Boston, and Chicago.

DELTA WORLDWIDE advertisement listing flight routes and prices to Sydney, Cairns, Perth, Auckland, Bangkok, Singapore, and New York.

CUBA advertisement for Freedom USA, offering flights to Orlando, Miami, and California.

CARBOOKERS advertisement for 1 week fully inclusive car rental in Malaga, Portugal, Florida, and California.

FARESAVERS advertisement for Monument Travel, offering flights to various European and Asian destinations.

AIRTRADERS advertisement for Global Flights, listing fares to Europe, Africa, and Asia.

TRAVEL SEARCHERS advertisement for 10% off all policies, as well as 40% off high street prices.

STA TRAVEL advertisement listing flight prices to various international destinations like Paris, Amsterdam, Vienna, and more.

Jetworld advertisement for charter flights to various European cities like Amsterdam, Frankfurt, and London.

FLIGHTBOOKERS advertisement for flights to Australia with a stopover in Langkawi Island for £585.

JETLINE advertisement for flights to various European cities like London, Paris, and Rome.

TRAVEL INSURANCE advertisement offering £15 for two weeks of insurance, including Mamma Mia!

CHECK IN USA CRUISE CLUB advertisement for Royal Caribbean International Eastern Caribbean Fly-Cruise offers.

TRAVEL INSURANCE advertisement for Club Sun Selection, offering comprehensive travel insurance policies.

JUST AMERICA advertisement for travel packages to the USA, including motorhomes and car hire.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Calculating', 'Cover n', and other fragments.

Prospect of demotion spurs struggling tennis counties to valiant deeds



Buckinghamshire's men, foreground, battling against the prospect of relegation from the top division of county players at Eastbourne yesterday. Photograph: Gill Allen

Eastbourne's elixir works its magic

WHEN it comes to County Week, there is undoubtedly an elixir-like effect generated by playing at Eastbourne. It may be that the men, most of whom are no longer in the flush of youth, are invigorated by the presence of a stream of teenage female starlets. Equally potent is the spirit-quashing prospect of relegation to an all-male (or all-female) domain next year.

BY JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
remember that you don't want to go back." Whitecross said. "This is the place to be. It's like a week-long stag party - except that it happens every year."

said, "and I'll still be bowling 15 overs for my cricket team on Saturday morning."
All this from a fully committed smoker with a second wife. "The first one drove me out of Australia more than seven years ago," he chuckled, "and I've been here ever since. She was an English girl but there are no hard feelings - I've since married another one."

Heat of battle presents big challenge in Curtis Cup

The men tee off for the Ryder Cup and Walker Cups, the women for the Solheim and Curtis. The amateur women, representing Great Britain and Ireland in the last of those events, which began 66 years ago, fly to Minneapolis today to begin the defence of the trophy at next week's two-day competition.



SARAH POTTER

On board will be Becky Morgan, 23, and the only Welsh player selected in the squad of eight. She has, however, lived in England for most of her life, in the Herefordshire market town of Ross-on-Wye. "I was born in Aberystwyth," she said. "Although I get teased by the other players for not speaking the language, I do consider myself Welsh, but semi-English too."

Not that you would know it from her accent. Four years of study at the University of North Carolina has obliterated any trace of a West Country burr. "I went for my golf," she said. "It's much more structured, the coaches are good and they make you practise for three or four hours every day."



Morgan: US experience

He will carry next week. "The caddies are supplied by the United States Golf Association," she said. "They're all drawn at the beginning of the week. Mum works in a travel agency, so it wasn't difficult organising my family to fly out. It'll be nice to know that a few people will be shouting for me."

BOWLS: OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY SEMI-FINAL WITNESSES FAIRYTALE ENDING

Baylis defies injury to fulfil his dream
BY DAVID RHYS JONES
away from the Mecca of bowls. I'd been bowling for 12 years, and never got close, and I wasn't going to be denied without rolling a bowl."

SPORT IN BRIEF

Davies hopes losing streak ends in Sweden
GOLF: Laura Davies aims to bring an end to her winning drought in Sweden this week when she takes part in the Chrysler Open at the Sjogarde Golf Club in Gothenburg.

Rios looking for No 1
TENNIS: Marcelo Rios, of Chile, made another bid for the No 1 position by winning in straight sets in the Mercedes Cup yesterday. Rios, who will pass Petr Sampras at the top of the ATP rankings if he reaches the final, beat Jens Knippschild, of Germany, 7-6, 6-2 to reach the third round.

Duggleby digs in
GOLF: Emma Duggleby managed to keep her swing intact in the testing conditions to lead the field after the second round of the Ryvita English women's strokeplay championship at Broadstone yesterday.

Call for Cunningham
SPEEDWAY: Glenn Cunningham, 23, of Peterborough, will become only the sixth rider from the second division to be capped when he makes his first appearance for England against Australia at Eastbourne on Saturday, August 1, and at King's Lynn the next day. He replaces Scott Nicholls, of Ipswich, who will be at the world under-21 final.

Interest rate falls
TENNIS: British interest in the Northern Electric Open in Newcastle ended yesterday with Luke Milligan's departure. Milligan, 20, failed in his bid to reach the last eight when he was beaten in straight sets by Petr Luxa. Milligan threatened an upset when he led the Czech 5-3 in the first set, but lost in a tie-break and Luxa went on to win the second set 6-1. He will now meet Agustín Calleri, of Argentina, in the quarter-finals today.

Running out of Fizz
ATHLETICS: Martin Fitz, Spain's former world marathon champion, has announced that he intends to retire from competitive racing after the Olympic Games. Fitz, 35, said he wanted to compete for an Olympic medal because "it is the only trophy I am missing". He also said that he was concentrating on his preparation for the 1999 world championships and was considering a special run at the end of the summer against Abel Anton, the world champion.

Table of sports results including Athletics, Cricket, Bowling, Shooting, and other sports. Includes names of athletes and their respective scores or results.

Table of sports results including HATFIELD, LITTLEWOOD, and ZETTES. Includes names of athletes and their respective scores or results.

Michael Henderson on a richly talented all-rounder Pollock bred for greatness

I was a fine day at Trent Bridge. Sir Garfield Sobers declared the Radcliffe Road Stand open...



Destructive force: Pollock has already achieved much but his best is yet to come

Now it is the young man's turn to sing for his supper. He missed the Old Trafford Test with a groin injury...

when he first came into the side three years ago, when England were touring South Africa...

denied by Mark Waugh's century and some sloppy work in the field. But it seems that Pollock will not be denied his place in the sun...

'Only slightly slower than Donald, he is becoming one of the finest players in the world'

Pollock at the South African Cricket Academy in Johannesburg and cannot speak too highly of him...

He is a wonderfully skilled bowler, but there are some improvements he can make. There is immense talent there but he is still learning...

Umpires prepare to call time on cheats

The significance of the fourth Test match at Trent Bridge extends way beyond the latest attempt by the England team to recover lost ground...

Alan Lee says new tough line can help to restore Test match appeal

when one understands the rarity of the gathering. Umpires tend only to meet in pairs and, deprived of the forum to air and share their grievances...



Kitchen: strong views

Advertisement for SHEEHAN on BRIDGE, featuring a list of bridge deals and a commentary by Robert Sheehan.

Advertisement for KEENE on CHESS, featuring a chess board diagram and commentary by Raymond Keene.

WORD-WATCHING section by Philip Howard, listing various words and their meanings.

WINNING MOVE section by Raymond Keene, discussing a chess game and a winning move.

Large advertisement for COMPANY GOLF DAYS RESULTS, featuring a list of winners and sponsors.

JUMPER POPPET and NIPPLEWORT sections, listing items for sale or auction.

Answers to word puzzles and chess problems from the previous sections.

RUGBY UNION

Question of Welsh matches vexes big clubs

BY MARK SOUSTER

AN emergency board meeting of English First Division Rugby (EFD) is expected to be called this morning to iron out potentially damaging differences within its ranks over the direction and structure of the domestic game. The move comes after the Rugby Football Union (RFU) insisted during talks with clubs on Tuesday that it would continue to oppose quasi-official matches with Cardiff and Swansea, who are also rumoured to be on the verge of withdrawing from the European Cup next season. An announcement is imminent.

The English clubs have a common goal, the realisation of which could be hastened if the Welsh clubs did pull out — that of a new, more equitable European competition, over which they have greater control. It is the method by which that objective is achieved that is the bone of contention.

On the one hand hawkish elements, led by Newcastle (in the shape of Sir John Hall), are anxious to try to force the issue now, even if it means, among other things, tearing up the Mayfair Agreement and antagonising the RFU, whose management board meets today.

However, a significant majority, led by Gloucester, Northampton and Leicester, are preaching caution and conciliation; they argue that even with mutual goodwill the timescale prohibits the introduction of a revamped European venture next season and that threats by some owners to sell up are counterproductive and unlikely to be followed through.

Tom Walkinshaw, the owner of Gloucester and one of the architects of the Mayfair Agreement, is hoping to "hang heads together" by insisting that any attempt to undermine it would be a public relations disaster and totally unacceptable. He will have the support of Peter Wheeler, of Leicester, and Ian McGeechan, of Northampton.

The consensus is that Cardiff and Swansea should not be included in an official fixture list, but that midweek "friendly" matches might be an acceptable compromise in the interim and one that does not contravene the Mayfair Agreement. That could be the precursor to more official contact in the longer term. What the RFU's reaction would be to such a proposal is uncertain.

Newcastle, meanwhile, have announced that they will play all their games this season at the Gateshead International Stadium, which has a capacity of 11,500 — almost double that of their existing home at Kingston Park. After their success last season, the club wants a bigger venue with better facilities to meet demand for tickets. For the moment, Kingston Park will remain as a base for training, administration and the academy teams. Match admission prices will remain the same.

Britain's new one-lap wonder has sights set on overtaking world No 1



Richardson's rapid improvement over 400 metres was rewarded with an impressive victory over Johnson, the Olympic champion, left, in Oslo. Photograph: Cornelius Poppe

The Great Britain captain's endorsement of the coming man's potential is written down. Roger Black, in his recently-published autobiography, said of Mark Richardson: "Mark can win the Olympic gold medal in 2000." As if the book were Kryptonite, and had been held up in front of him, Michael Johnson — the sport's self-proclaimed Superman — visibly weakened in Oslo a fortnight ago.

No sooner was the ink dry on Black's work than Richardson handed Johnson, the Olympic champion, only his second defeat in 64 races over 400 metres. The Texan was traumatised. He refused to shake Richardson's hand, failed to appear for the presentation and went off for a large Jack Daniels.

Five days later, in Rome, Richardson and Johnson raced again. This time Johnson, whose coach, Clyde Hart, had spoken before the Atlanta Olympics of the "S" on his athlete's chest, enjoyed his revenge. Superman is more Superhuman when things go wrong but Richardson, the former head boy of a Berkshire public school, has greater powers of intelligence when beaten.

"I went up to him, gave him a hug and a handshake, a bit of male bonding, because I want to break down his aura," Richardson said. "I want to break down all the mystery about him so that when I see him, he is just a regular guy. We had a chat afterwards and I told him that I was after him."

Richardson's stock is rising sharply

David Powell on the man who aims to conquer Europe after proving that Michael Johnson can be beaten

Richardson has improved with every season since he lost two years to injury after 1993. Before that, he was a brilliant teenage prospect: fourth in the world under-20 championships at 16; bronze medal-winner two years later; European junior silver medal-winner at 19; second in the World Cup at 20.

His hip trouble behind him, Richardson has won six European Cup gold medals in four seasons and has ascended towards the peak of one-lap running by finishing fourth at the world championships in Athens last year. His time in Oslo, 44.37sec, was within half a shoe-length of the British record.

Such is Richardson's progress that, this season, he has set himself two main targets: the European title in Budapest next month and ending Johnson's five-year reign as world No 1. He emphasised, though, the importance of taking it one lap at a time, of securing the European gold medal before chasing Johnson.

Standards before allowing him to join an athletics club. "Those standards never dropped," as Richardson went on to obtain three A levels and a degree in sports science.

From a young age, Richardson seemed the perfect catch for the money men: articulate and talented.

On the books of Park Associates, a sports management agency, were 18 well-known sportsmen and women — Linaker, Atherton and Carling among them — plus Richardson, the odd one out. "I sometimes look through the client brochure and think: 'What am I doing there?'," he said at the time.

Park Associates wondered the same and dropped him. Undeterred, Richardson kept working at his running and his image: he made his comeback, penned a column for the *Maidenhead Advertiser*, and invited the press to the launch of the Mark Richardson School of Sprinting at Eton College.

Richardson is an honest, plain speaker and, these days, he has a column in a national newspaper. He dabbles in the financial markets because "I like making money."

His nose is more likely to be found behind the *Financial Times* than *Athletics Weekly*. He even wears a pinstripe suit to work, his one-piece running outfit tailored in vertical lines of white and grey. He wore it when he beat Johnson. The "S" that night had been replaced by a "C". A victory for Cityman over Superman.

'He is more likely to be found reading the *Financial Times* than *Athletics Weekly*. He even wears a pinstripe suit to work'

year before because there was an edge to us." The alliance led to Richardson joining Black for winter training in California, sharing a coach, Tony Lester, a manager, Mike Whittingham, and a therapist, Mark Zambarada.

Nothing comes without hard work, though, and Richardson has had strong schooling. He comes from a family of diligent workers. His father, Ashton, came to Britain from Anguilla, a Caribbean island of only 36 square miles, at 16 to "seek his fortune", as Richardson put it. While he worked his way up from factory hand at Mars to consumer complaints, his mother, Lorna, took on a job at a nursing home.

"I have never met anybody more determined and I probably never will," Richardson said of his mother. His sister, Marsha, has a degree in law. "The work ethic has been built into my sister and I from an early age," Richardson said.

Richardson's father insisted that he met certain academic

Johnson destroys doubts in emphatic fashion

BY DAVID POWELL

JUST as gossip was spreading that Michael Johnson was losing his shine, he turned up in New York with brush and polish. Johnson won the Goodwill Games 400 metres in the fastest time of the year — and one which only two men, other than himself, have bettered.

Johnson's performance on Tuesday overshadowed yet another splendid victory for Jonathan Edwards, the British triple jumper, who maintained his unbeaten record for the season by defeating his successor as world champion, Yoelbi Quesada, from Cuba. Also among Edwards's victims was Kenny Harrison, the Olympic champion.

After losing to Mark Richardson, from Windsor, in Oslo two weeks ago, Johnson gained his revenge in Rome last week. However, until the Goodwill Games, his best time for the year was 44.40sec, more than a second outside his best.

Johnson, the world and Olympic champion, pulled away over the second 200 metres to record 43.76, within half a second of the one frontier he has failed to conquer in his specialist field of 200/400 metres running.

Johnson, the 200 metres Olympic champion and world record-holder, has yet to take the one-lap world record, which is held by Butch Reynolds at 43.29.

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Edwards produced his winning jump on his final attempt. Having recorded 18.01 metres this season, the Briton is in his best form since his all-conquering year in 1995, when he set three world records and became world champion.

In New York he faced the men who denied him his first Olympic title and a second world title. Although his longest jump of 17.65 metres was unexceptional by his standards, he finished well clear of Quesada, the runner-up.

Maurice Greene, from the United States, confirmed his place as the world's leading 100 metres runner. Greene, who won the world title in Athens last year, defeated Donovan Bailey, from Canada, the world record-holder.

Without a global championship on the calendar this year, this was the most important 100 metres of the season for those outside Europe and the Commonwealth. Greene won in 9.96sec, with Ato Boldon, from Trinidad, second and Bailey seventh.

SHOOTING

Ulster bring experience to bear at Bisley

BY A CORRESPONDENT

THE Ulster Rifle Association, shooting as one of the 29 counties competing in the short-range senior county championship at Bisley, was able to call on the province's two Commonwealth Games marksmen and a former Army Queen's Medal winner. Alwyn McLean, as part of a strong team that won the title for the first time, with three points to spare over Hertfordshire.

David Calvert, winner of the gold medal at the Commonwealth Games, was top scorer for Ulster, with 99.11pts, while McLean scored 98.12. Hertfordshire's top score of 99.15 came from Jeremy Thompson and John Stevens was the best shot for Yorkshire, the third-placed team, scoring 98.14.

Matthew Wilson, the Gresham's School sixth former who won *The Times* Trophy earlier in the week, was top scorer for Norfolk as they won the county long-range championship. He scored 96 out of 100 with ten shots at 900 and 1,000 yards, the same score as his shooting master, Nigel Ball, who was in the same team.

McLean was also top-scorer in the Regular Army team which beat the RAF by seven points to win the Inter-Services short-range match over 300, 500 and 600 yards. The United Kingdom Cadets team was third, beating the Territorial Army, the Canadian Cadets, the Police and the Royal Navy.

Results, page 45

GYMNASTICS: SANG IS LATEST VICTIM OF SPECTACULAR MANOEUVRE THAT WENT WRONG

Chinese gymnast left paralysed after fall

BY JOHN GOODBODY

A CHINESE female gymnast was yesterday lying paralysed in a New York hospital fearing that she may never walk again.

Sang Lan, 17, the national vault champion, landed on her head while warming up for her favourite apparatus in the Nassau Coliseum at the Goodwill Games. She was attempting a forward vault when she tumbled to the ground.

Sang was taken on a stretcher to the Nassau County Medical Centre, East Meadow, where Dr Brock Schnebel, chief medical officer of the Games, examined X-rays which showed she had fractured two vertebrae.

He said: "She has a minimal amount of motion in her arms and she cannot feel from her mid-chest downwards. This is consistent with a spinal cord injury at the sixth and seventh vertebrae." Dr Schnebel said that it is too early to predict if Sang would recover from her injuries and walk again.

"I am very concerned about her ability to have neurological function in the future. She communicated through her interpreter but is a little scared."

Sang performed a forward flip over the horse, soared out of control and fell hard, jamming her chin forward onto her chest. The other gymnasts were unaware of how seriously Sang had been injured and the individual vault competition started on time, with Vanessa Ailer, of the United States, winning the event.

Sang is not the first outstanding female gymnast to suffer a serious injury. In 1980, Elena



Sang Lan is treated after fracturing two vertebrae at the Goodwill Games

Moukhirina, of the Soviet Union, who had won the world combined exercises title by defeating Nadia Comaneci, of Romania, in Strasbourg in 1978, was preparing for the Olympics in Moscow.

Against strict instructions from her coach, she was training alone three weeks before the Games in a desperate attempt to be selected for the national team after finishing way down the field in the USSR Cup two

months previously. She fell on to the back of her neck from asymmetric bars and was left paralysed. She remains in a wheelchair to this day.

When asked about the tragedy in 1994, Ludmila Tourischeva, the 1972 Olympic combined exercises champion and later a leading Soviet official, replied crossly: "She has a pension. The state looks after her. These things happen."

The trend of gymnasts attempting more spectacular but also more hazardous moves was part of the distinction of one of the Soviet team's predecessors in the Soviet team, Olga Korbut, the great rival of Tourischeva.

At the 1977 European championships, Moukhirina used the Korbut flip from the high bar, but added a full twist, and it was Moukhirina's failure to control such moves that caused her accident.

Coincidentally, Korbut, the darling of the 1972 Olympics, was at Eton watching youngsters training safely as part of the Mace week of sport at the college. Korbut has been in Britain helping youngsters at Eton and in Birmingham to enjoy a sport that is such a delight when it is performed safely.

However, it only needs an accident such as the one suffered by Sang to remind everyone in gymnastics of the need for extreme care.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Schofield sues Huddersfield after dismissal

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

GARRY SCHOFIELD, the former Great Britain captain, yesterday left Huddersfield Giants, the struggling Super League club, and announced that he was suing them for wrongful dismissal.

Huddersfield revealed on Monday that Schofield, 33, the stand-off, was being relieved of his coaching duties and would be reverting to his former status as a player. The club said that it acted because Schofield, who was only eight months into a three-year contract as head coach, did not possess the correct coaching qualifications, a level-three certificate.

In a statement issued through his solicitors, Schofield said: "The actions of the club leave me with no alternative but to regard myself as dismissed. I feel badly let down. I can't believe that the club would expect me now to play for them following my dismissal as coach. My confidence in the board has been shattered by their approach and it would not be fair either to the other players or me to expect me to continue to play for the Giants."

Les Coulter, the Huddersfield chief executive, said: "When we put the problem to Garry on Saturday, he agreed to revert to being a player and pledged himself 110 per cent to the club." Phil Veivers, Schofield's former assistant who had earlier yesterday said he would pick the former Great Britain captain as a substitute for the Super League Roadshow match against Hull in Gateshead tomorrow.

السؤال من الأصل

سكوا من الاصل

FOOTBALL

Koreans seek World Cup switch

By JOHN GOODBODY

SOUTH Korea yesterday appeared to be preparing to give up their joint hosting of the 2002 World Cup, allowing Japan to stage the 32-nation finals alone.

With the Far East, particularly South Korea, in economic recession, Japan seems increasingly likely to get the opportunity for which it has craved since announcing its candidature in 1991.

Chung Moon-jun, the head of the South Korean Football Association, yesterday proposed that the 2002 event should be held not in June and July, as has been customary since the first tournament in 1930, but in September because the weather would be better.

This switch would clash

in Korea in June is 400mm and monsoons are common.

Chung, a vice-president representing Asia on Fifa, pointed out that the 1964 summer Olympic Games in Tokyo were in October and the 1988 Olympics in Seoul were in September.

Keith Cooper, the Fifa spokesman, said yesterday that the proposal "was not entirely impossible but nothing has been decided yet." He said that the exact dates needed only to be settled by the 30-man Fifa organising committee by 1999, three years before the tournament.

However, if the 2002 World Cup were to be staged in September, there would certainly be massive opposition in certain European and South American countries, particularly among the clubs.

What is more likely is that South Korea is now using the weather as an excuse to withdraw from co-hosting the tournament. Because of the depression, construction of the proposed main football stadium in Seoul has been put on hold and only a maximum of six venues may be used. Japan has already completed two stadiums, in Osaka and Yokohama, where the final will be played, and has started work on another eight.

Tsunao Ito, a spokesman in Europe for the Japanese Football Association, said: "The proposal of South Korea does not come as a surprise to us. We heard about this during the recent World Cup. We do not mind when the competition is held. The weather is certainly better than in June and July but the decision is up to Fifa."

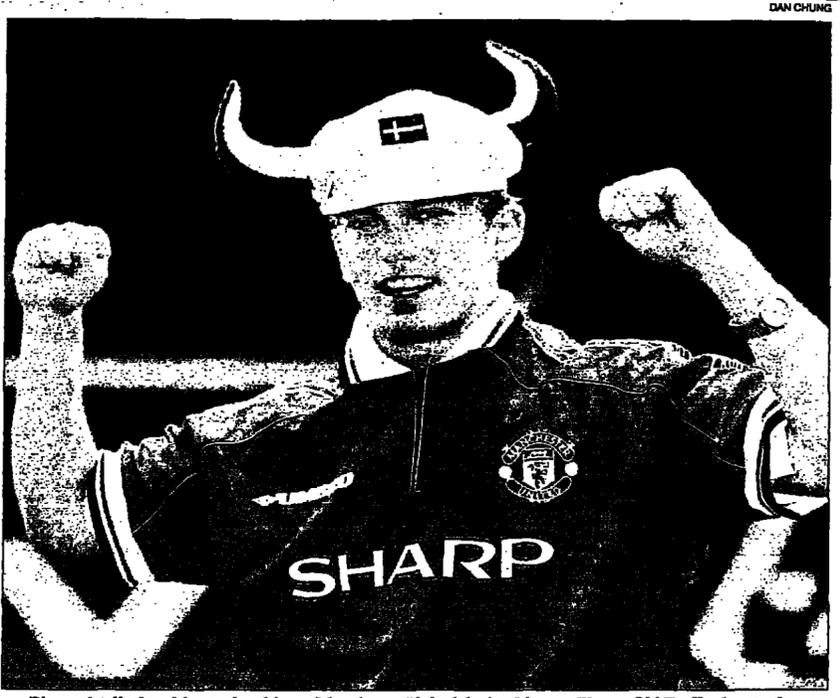
"We could certainly stage the whole tournament if South Korea cannot be co-hosts. After all, to be the sole hosts was originally our plan. We are prepared to step in."

Italy have turned to Dino Zoff, their former captain and goalkeeper, to revive the national team's fortunes after a disappointing World Cup. Zoff, 56, has signed a four-year contract, replacing Cesare Maldini as coach.

with domestic and international club tournaments in Europe and South America and would be clearly unacceptable to most of the leading countries.

Speaking at a lunch of Korean journalists in Seoul, Chung said: "The rescheduling is an urgent matter that should be decided by the end of this year at the latest."

When the issue was unofficially raised at a Fifa executive committee in Paris in June, Chung said that he understood that most members showed support for the suggested timing. He said: "This year, as usual, Japan and South Korea had much rain during the World Cup in France." The average rainfall



DAN CHUNG

Blomqvist displays his new loyalties to Manchester United during his unveiling at Old Trafford yesterday

Ferguson continues his search

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALEX FERGUSON, the Manchester United manager, will continue his search for a striker after completing the £4.4 million signing of Jesper Blomqvist yesterday. Ferguson feels that his squad still needs reinforcing despite taking his summer spending to more than £15 million with the purchase of the Sweden winger from Parma.

Dwight Yorke, the Aston Villa striker, is still top of his shopping list, but any move remains deadlocked because Ferguson is not prepared to meet Villa's £16 million asking price for the Trinidad and Tobago international. Ferguson's attempts to sign Marc-Vivien Foe, from Lens, have also been put back on hold while the Cameroon midfielder recovers from his broken leg.

"I think we still need a stronger pool," he said. "Jesper will certainly help, but we need maybe one more. There's nothing to tell with Dwight Yorke at the moment. With any player you get the media valuation and the true valuation, and we have to find out what the true valuation is."

Blomqvist, 24, put pen to paper on a three-year contract and Ferguson claims he will release Ryan Giggs from the left wing to play in other positions. "Jesper will give Ryan new freedom," said Ferguson, who failed with four bids in the past year to sign the Sweden player.

"With the way Ryan developed last year we are very sure that he can play in other

positions. We can play him as a central midfielder player or as an attacker. Now he can become a more complete footballer which is where the desire to sign Jesper came from."

Blomqvist, who helped IFK Gothenburg to beat United 3-1 in the Champions League four years ago, claimed he was not a Swedish version of Giggs. He said: "I'm fed up by it in one way, but in another way it's very flattering to be compared with him. But in the end we are two different players. You can't put two players together and say they are the same. Of course you can find some similarities, but there are also differences and I maybe have other sides to my game."

Blomqvist had been worried that his first-team opportunities at United would be limited because of Giggs, but Ferguson won him over with his vision of how the two would play as well as telling him he would be a "first-team player."

"We needed to persuade him and he had to trust me in the respect of the Ryan Giggs situation," Ferguson said. "It was a valid question of the boy to ask 'why do you want to sign me when you've got Ryan Giggs?' I had to explain to him what we felt about Ryan Giggs and how we felt he has progressed in terms as a footballer, and then he made his mind up."

A foot injury means that Blomqvist will have to wait before he can begin training with his new team-mates.

SAILING

Cisne helps Dutch make early pace

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE fourth biennial Commodore's Cup got underway yesterday with two races on inshore courses in the eastern Solent. The Dutch Green team produced the most consistent results, led by Koerdt Janssen's Swan 43, *Cisne*, which scored two wins in the small boat fleet.

The Dutch team — which also features Simon Dierdorp's Mean Marine 41 *Reckless* in the big boat slot and Dig van de Silik's IMX 38 *Kind of Magic* in the middle fleet — did just enough to stay ahead of the fancied German Red team at the end of a day of windward/leeward racing in light winds that built as the day wore on.

Cisne's feat of winning both her races in the small boat fleet was matched only by Thomas Jungbluth's middle boat in the German Red team, the first 40.7 *Sequana*.

a fifth and a seventh, but, in the small boat slot, Tony Cox's 1970-vintage Sparkman & Stephens-designed *Prospect of Whitby*, managed a second and a fourth to help offset *Victrie's* numbers.

Cox was delighted with his first day in a competition he has been preparing for since he bought the boat a year ago. He dismissed criticism from those, such as Jungbluth, who believe an age limit should be imposed to prevent relatively ancient yachts such as *Prospect* taking advantage of the IMS handicap system.

"I think it's fine," he said. "It demonstrates to me that IMS is a marvellous handicap. What matters is how boats are sailed, not whether they are

RESULTS

OVERALL POSITIONS after two races: 1. Holland Green (Janssen/Dierdorp/Van de Silik) 7. *Edispa*; 2. Germany Red (Jungbluth/Vierbeck/Suring) 8. 126; 3. Holland Red (Wessel/Schooten/De Ridder) 8; 4. England Red (Rutter/Cox/Mulder) 11.5; 5. Spain (Rabad/Gomez/Juarez) 17; 6. Germany Green (Schaefer/Wedding/Galhardt-Frill) 19.5; 7. Belgium (Mignon/Piastel/Lange) 20; 8. England Green (Singstack/Mann/Siddons) 20; 9. Scandinavia (Harkonen/Ryckman/Struvsfeldt) 22.5

state-of-the-art racing machines. A really well built oldie can still race competitively."

In the Atlantic Alone Race, Giovanni Soldini, of Italy, in *FILA*, is cruising to victory. Yesterday Soldini was averaging 8.9 knots on a northwesterly heading at a latitude equivalent to central Florida and pointing straight at the finish line in Charleston.

Soldini had just 689 miles left to sail compared to almost 1,500 for Mike Golding, of Great Britain, in second place in *Team Group 4*.

In Class 2, Mike Garside, of Great Britain, in his brand new Open 50, *Magellan Alpha*, is 154 miles astern of class leader Jean-Pierre Mouligne in *Cray Valley*.

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